



*The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland No.5 Spring/Summer 2016*

# BORDERLANDS



## THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**The International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) is a North-South-U.S. partnership established in 2006 to explore and expand the contribution that planning and the development of physical, social and economic infrastructures can make to improving the lives of people on the island of Ireland and elsewhere. The partner institutions are: the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth; the School of the Built Environment at the University of Ulster; and the Institute for International Urban Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Each partner brings together complementary expertise and networks on both a North-South and East-West basis – creating a unique, all-island and international centre.**

The ICLRDR continues to expand its collaboration with other institutions and has built up close working relationships with individual faculty and researchers from universities and research institutions including Mary Immaculate College-University of Limerick, Harvard University, the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education at the University of Maryland, Queens University Belfast and HafenCity University Hamburg. We also continue to expand our joint initiatives with other organisations involved in cross-border research and activities including: the Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS) and Cooperation Ireland with whom we have a long-standing working relationship, the Institute for British-Irish Studies (IBIS) at University College Dublin (UCD) and the Border Regional Authority (now subsumed into the Northern and Western Regional Assembly). The ICLRDR is very open to involving other academics and research institutions in its activities.

The Acting Director of the ICLRDR is Ms. Caroline Creamer of NIRSA at Maynooth University, ably supported by the members of the ICLRDR Executive Board and the ICLRDR Advisory Board.

During 2015, the ICLRDR was supported by the EU's Interreg IVA Programme through the Special EU

Programmes Body, the Irish Government through the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DoECLG) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and the Northern Ireland Executive through the Department for Regional Development (DRD) and the Department for Social Development (DSD). In recent years, the ICLRDR has also received funding from the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and undertaken commissioned research from InterTradelreland, the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) and the Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN).

The ICLRDR provides independent, joined-up research and policy advice on cross-border and all-island spatial planning and local and regional development. The Centre plays a proactive role in peace and reconciliation on the island by bringing together policy-makers, practitioners and academics, North and South, to work on common goals in the areas of co-ordinated spatial planning and social and economic development at local, regional and national levels. It does this through research, policy advice and publications; professional education and capacity building programmes that assist local governments and communities to translate policy into 'on the ground' action; and active outreach and networking that includes conferences, workshops and international cooperation and exchanges to identify best practices.

Stimulating economic growth and improving the living conditions to alleviate and prevent social conflict is at the heart of the Centre's mission. The ICLRDR is focused on building the capacity of regional and local authorities, development agencies, border networks and community and voluntary organisations to identify strategic areas of cooperation.

Through its research and professional education programmes, the ICLRDR works with policy-makers and local leaders to improve the environments in which people in Ireland, North and South, live and work, with particular emphasis on the needs of marginalised and divided communities. It combines the promotion of regional planning and development as a tool for competitiveness with local planning and development



## BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

as a way to remedy the continuing problems of social disadvantage.

### CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Each year, the ICLRD undertakes **action research** that contributes to a better understanding of the complex all-island and cross-border dynamics and drivers of change in Irish towns and rural areas, including cross-border communities. Since its inception, the ICLRD has organised its work around three spatial scales: EU and all-island; sub-regional, which includes cross-border; and local. Through its activities, the ICLRD is facilitating forums to foster the exchange of experience and best practices. It is also supporting North-South / East-West inter-regional cooperation, including on a cross-border basis, along priorities encouraged by the European Union.

The emphasis of the ICLRD's work programme in 2014 and 2015 was the completion of its research programme under the Cross-Border Spatial Planning Development and Training Network (CroSPlaN II), an EU INTERREG IVA-funded programme administered by the Special EU Programmes Body. Having commenced in February 2013, CroSPlaN II was a programme of research, training and workshops in Northern Ireland and the Southern border counties, which operated in association with the Centre for Cross Border Studies as part of the Ireland-Northern Ireland Cross-Border Cooperation Observatory (INICCO II).

There were three inter-linked components to CroSPlaN II that provided sustained support to territorial cooperation in the Irish border region. The three elements were:

- Shared Services – to identify opportunities, and operational frameworks, for joint initiatives that improved the delivery of public services; this occurred through action research and two pilot initiatives to demonstrate practical models for cooperation in delivering front-line and / or specialised services;
- Executive Training – building on the successful ICLRD model linking training and animation, to

develop and deliver executive training for cross-border councils; and

- Evidence-Informed Planning – to map the compatible 2011 census data from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and develop an updated all-island deprivation index in an on-line, user-friendly format to support collaboration among central government departments across the island.

Taken together, these three closely integrated activities filled an important gap in improving the effectiveness of public sector cooperation in the Irish border region by providing the necessary tools, models, training and data for mutual benefit. In addition, the ICLRD participated in the development of a *draft Charter for the Border Development Corridor* (BDC), an initiative led by the Centre for Cross Border Studies (see Completed Research Reports section below for further details).

### ADVOCACY AND DEMONSTRATION: EVIDENCE-BASED PLANNING

In 2014-15, the ICLRD and its partners continued to provide external support to different cross-border activities in local and regional development. These included: the Irish Central Border Area Network's (ICBAN) Spatial Planning Initiative and specifically its Data Capture Project and the development of its *Regional Strategic Framework*; the North West Partnership Board and its potential role in progressing the North West Gateway Initiative; and the data capture and indicators project implemented by the North West Region Cross-Border Group, the SPACeial data capture project.

Providing researchers, policy-makers and practitioners timely access to data and information to better understand the implications of development trends and patterns has been an important part of ICLRD's work since 2007. Under the original CroSPlaN programme, the ICLRD, together with its sister organisation, the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO), completed four applied research activities that provide both mapping tools and recommendations on how data and information can be used to monitor the implementation of spatial strategies. These highly interactive mapping



## BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

tools are available through both the ICLRD (<http://iclr.org/mapping-tools/>) and AIRO (<http://airo.maynoothuniversity.ie/>) websites and include:

- The **All-Island Accessibility Mapping Tool** (2012) maps levels of access to key services across the island in areas such as education, health, transport and emergency services.
- The **All-Island Deprivation Index** (2012) facilitates, for the first time, a comparative analysis of deprivation at a regional level within areas such as the Irish border region. This Index is constructed along the same lines as the New Measures of Deprivation (Haase and Pratschke, 2005, 2008) and the Pobal HP Deprivation Index for Small Areas (Haase and Pratschke, 2010, 2012), all of which are based on the same set of hypotheses regarding the underlying dimensions of deprivation, and all of which use Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA). This Index can supplement the existing indices used within Ireland and Northern Ireland that are incompatible with each other and help researchers, communities and programmes to better understand the spatial distribution of deprivation. Both AIRO and ICLRD will further test this methodology with the 2011 Census data for Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- The **Island of Ireland Housing Monitoring Tool** (2011) provides an interactive mapping and querying tool for housing market indicators, combining for the first time data from both Ireland and Northern Ireland. The mapped outputs assist in understanding the spatial implications and outcomes of policy decisions and interventions over time.

The fourth element of this work programme, the research study *Towards a Spatial Monitoring Framework for the Island of Ireland: A Scoping Study* (see Completed Research Reports section below for further details) is available to download from the ICLRD website.

Under CroSPlan II, the core focus of the evidence-informed strand of the programme – developed in association with AIRO – was the development of the all-island deprivation index (building on the prototype

created under CroSPlan I) and progressing the all-island atlas, both on-line and hard copy versions based on Census 2011.

- **New All-Island HP Deprivation Index** (2014) presents an area-based deprivation measure for the island of Ireland based on the 2011 Census. Conceptually, it builds on the study undertaken by Haase, Pratschke and Gleeson in 2012 (see above), which used small area (SA) data from Ireland and Northern Ireland to construct a prototype of an all-island deprivation index. The new index was made possible by recent developments in data availability and harmonisation, particularly the introduction of small areas (SA) in both jurisdictions for the publication of aggregate data from the census, providing a better alignment of geographical units. The new All-Island HP Deprivation Index builds on these developments and draws on a combined set of equivalent indicators to form a single deprivation index, providing a powerful tool for researchers and policy-makers who are interested in understanding and seeking to reduce the social gradient that characterises a multiplicity of different outcomes in the economic, social and political spheres. The index relies on ten variables, each of which expresses a distinct aspect of relative affluence and deprivation. The Index, launched on 24th November 2014 in Maynooth University, was also part-funded by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.
- **Atlas of the Island of Ireland** (2015) was developed in two phases: on-line initially followed by hard-copy with associated analysis. The on-line atlas is a key resource tool for policy-makers and practitioners alike, with new maps added as they were developed. This resource tool, which can be accessed at <http://airo.maynoothuniversity.ie/external-content/all-island-atlas-0> was launched on 20th November 2013 to coincide with World GIS Day. Building on this, work then turned towards the development of a hard copy atlas – containing both maps and a written narrative explaining the trends and outlining their implications for future policy. Contributors to the atlas included Mr. Justin Gleeson



## BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

(AIRO), Prof. Jim Walsh and Dr. Chris VanEgeraat (Maynooth University), Dr. Trutz Hasse (Independent Consultant) and Dr. Andrew McClelland (ICLRD). This hard-copy was launched at the joint ICLR/CCBS conference in January 2015 in Enniskillen.

In support of evidence-based policy and the development of analytic tools under CroSPlaN II, a series of 'Data for Decisions-Makers' and Census Seminars were organised and delivered by AIRO:

- 30th January 2014: Census seminar on population and economy – held in Cavan Crystal Hotel, Cavan;
- 6th March 2014; Data for Decision-Makers Workshop with Border Regional Authority – held in Regional Authority Offices in Cavan;
- 8th April 2014: Census seminar on housing and transport – held in Maynooth University;
- 15th April 2014: Data for Decision-Makers Workshop with InterTradeIreland – held in ITI Offices, Newry;
- 12th May 2014; Data for Decision-Makers Workshop with Land and Property Services – held in Belfast;
- 23rd September 2014: Data for Decision-Makers Workshop – held in Dundalk Institute of Technology;
- 30th September 2014: Census Seminar on Health – held in M:TEK, Monaghan;
- 24th November 2014: Census Seminar on All-Island Deprivation Index – held in Maynooth University; and
- 29th January 2015: Mapping Census 2011: Key trends and implications for policy and practice on the island of Ireland & Atlas Launch (including an overview and reflection of the previous census seminars and other additional themes) – held in Killyhevin Hotel, Enniskillen.

These events not only showcased the range of datasets available to policy-makers and practitioners alike but also demonstrated how this information can best be used by organisations in setting policies and making strategic decisions. Taken together, this suite of tools ensures we move away from the old adage of being 'data rich but insight poor'.

In support of the **shared services agenda** strand of the CroSPlaN II programme, an on-line resource has been developed by the ICLR/CCBS as a resource tool to local authorities where the shared services agenda is gaining momentum. This resource includes details of case studies, agreement prototypes, seminars/workshops/conferences and contact details for agencies with a remit in progressing this agenda. This resource can be accessed at: <http://iclr.org/sharedservices/>

The shared services programme of work also involved the establishment of a Shared Services Learning Network - a soft space in which information was shared and networks established around shared services. Four briefing sessions were held in total:

- First Seminar: *Inter-Municipal and Cross-Border Collaboration in Spain and Portugal: Rural tourism, greenways and enhanced emergency services* – Held on 9th July 2014 in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan Town with presentation by Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe, Mary Immaculate College and ICLR/CCBS. This event was preceded by a walk along a completed section of the Ulster Canal Greenway in Monaghan town, led by Ms. Carol Lambe of Monaghan County Council.
- Second Seminar: *Shared Services on the Island of Ireland: Departmental perspectives on prospects for enhanced shared services across local government* – Held on 16th October 2014 in the Armagh City Hotel with presentations by Mr. David O'Connor, Senior Responsible Officer, Local Government Efficiency Review, Programme Management Office and Mr. Lorcan O'Kane, deputising for Mr. Ian Maye, Deputy Secretary, Local Government, Road Safety & Corporate Services Group, Department of the Environment
- Third Seminar: *Shared Services: Learning from Experiences in Integrated Working and the implementation of Community Planning in Scotland* - Held on 25th November 2014 in Ballymascanlon Hotel, Dundalk with presentation by Prof. Deborah Peel, The Geddes Institute, University of Dundee and interventions by Professor Peter Roberts, Visiting Professor at the University of Ulster, and Vice Chairman of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive



# BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

and Dr. Brendan O’Keeffe, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick (and presenter to the first seminar in the series)

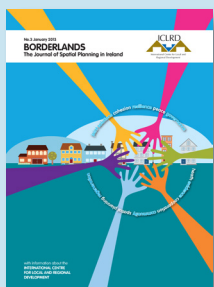
- Workshop: *Shared Services – Making it Happen: Innovative service agreements facilitating collaboration between public bodies across jurisdictional boundaries* - Held on 14th January 2015 in the Boardroom of the Utility Regulator, Belfast with presentations by Dr. Andrew McClelland of ICLRD and Mr. Barry Lowry, Director of IS Shared Services and Strategy, NICS Head of ICT Profession.

## ICLRD JOURNAL

*Borderlands: The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland* is published on an annual basis and covers a range of topics of interest to academics, practitioners and policy-makers involved in spatial planning and local and regional development.



The fourth issue of *Borderlands*, published in April 2014, includes articles on such topical debates as place-based leadership and planning for a sustainable steady state to planning to live with difference and using functional based approaches to measure the socio-economic performance of Ireland’s gateways and hubs. The journal also included a reflection on fifty years of regional and national planning in Ireland – the first Planning Act in Ireland dating to 1963. And with no journal complete without a cross-border case study, this edition includes a short overview of cross-border collaboration in Hungary-Romania.



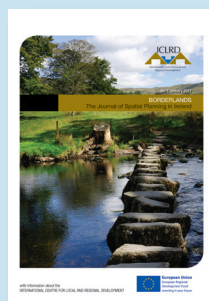
The January 2013 edition of the Journal, launched at the eighth annual ICLRD conference, includes articles on: cross-border health data, the work of the International Fund for Ireland from 1986-

2011, the regeneration of Limerick, the planners’ toolkit and the importance of interdependence to overcome fragmentation of processes and actors, territorial cohesion and EU2020, transport policy and the role of scenario modelling in determining economic development patterns, spatial planners as managers of change, a transatlantic exploration of planning frameworks and strategies, and local government in transition.



The second issue of *Borderlands: The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland* was launched by Frank McDonald, Environment Editor of The Irish Times, in January 2012 at the seventh annual ICLRD conference. Articles included in this issue focused on: cross-border river basin management,

pathways to managing regional growth, modelling infrastructure investments, the development of a cross-border deprivation index, marine spatial planning and its role in the management of ocean resources, reinstating ‘kids’ into planning policy and practice, and the key links between spatial planning, data and housing policies.



The inaugural issue of *Borderlands: The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland* was launched at the sixth annual ICLRD conference in Sligo on 20th January 2011. The first issue included articles on the challenges of planning and governance reform on both sides of the Irish border;

planning for sustainable communities; balancing private sector interests with the ‘common good’ in planning; cross-border planning in the greater Basel region between Switzerland, France and Germany; and how NGOs and academics in the Boston region have pioneered new methods of evidence-informed planning. Contributors to the inaugural issue included Professor Peter Roberts (Homes and Communities Agency), Professor Greg Lloyd (University of Ulster),



## BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

Charlotte Kahn (Boston Indicators Project), Holly St Clair (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) and ICLRD partners. The journal was launched by Mary Bunting and Anne Barrington, Joint Secretaries of the North South Ministerial Council.

Copies of the articles are now available to download off the ICLRD website, [www.iclrd.org](http://www.iclrd.org)

### PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

As part of CroSPlaN II, the ICLRD developed an executive training programme aimed at council officials, elected representatives and community workers from those councils that made up the three cross-border networks: namely the North West Region Cross-Border Group, the Irish Central Border Area Network and East Border Region. Strand 1 of the programme, involving the delivery of five modules between September and December 2013, consisted of a mix of seminars and working group discussions, with issues such as territorial cooperation, community planning, public sector reform, efficiency agendas and customer-centric governance lying at the heart of the programme. Meeting largely in plenary, the 80 plus delegates were afforded the opportunity to network, debate the ongoing local government agenda and its implications for intra- and cross-jurisdictional working, and emerging shared priority themes. At the end of Module 5, delegates had identified six key themes / projects that they wished to focus on during Strand 2 through a series of tailored focus groups.

Strand 2 involved participants working in smaller working groups that were thematically focused and representative of a priority issue for the participating councils. Modules 6-9 were delivered between February and June 2014 and involved the councils organising themselves into six working groups - (a) urban regeneration, (b) community planning, (c) tourism and recreation, (d) renewables, green economy and low carbon agenda, (e) SMEs, and (f) agri-food. The working groups initially met separately for a series of half-day sessions; with Modules 6-9 tailored to focus on their priority theme. However, as the programme developed, a number of common areas

of interest emerged across the various working groups which led to them 'joining forces' (for example, tourism and agri-food). During this Strand, the councils were mentored in the strategic development of their project ideas / priority themes by the ICLRD, the Centre for Cross Border Studies (through the Impact Assessment Toolkit) and guest speakers and facilitators. The end goal for the Groups was the development of an action agenda; understanding the operational structures required to translate policy into practice.

The Executive Training Programme concluded on 10th July 2014 with a day-long seminar where the councils, through the various working groups, presented their work and action agendas in their chosen thematic areas to an invited audience consisting of key agencies / experts in their thematic area (Strand 3).

A short evaluation of the programme is currently being undertaken by the ICLRD; with an in-built review to determine if any of the proposals are suitable to be taken forward under the new round of EU funding programmes.

Under the original CroSPlaN initiative, the ICLRD held professional education programmes for council officials, elected representatives and the private sector for three areas in the Irish Border Region:

- Irish Central Border Area Network Region (ICBAN)
- The Northwest Region
- Newry/Dundalk Twin City Region.

Each programme was tailored to help local governments and the business community to engage with the spatial planning agenda and build an awareness of the benefits of regional cooperation among local governments and other key stakeholders in the border region. Each programme introduced carefully selected case studies of international good practices, external speakers and facilitated working groups to help participants to: assess their current level of cross-border cooperation; develop suggestions for improvement; and propose institutional mechanisms to promote future collaboration.



## BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

### **ICBAN Region Training Programme: October 2011 – December 2011**

This six-module training programme, *Harnessing diversity in a shared future*, was developed in association with the ten councils that make up the Irish Central Border Area – five North and five South. As with the previous programmes, the modules were delivered through a mix of invited speakers – all with recognised expertise in their field, facilitated working group discussions and wider networking opportunities through additional seminars and workshops. Unlike the previous programmes, this training programme engaged with senior management only from the ten Councils in the region.

This programme helped local governments in this cross-border region to identify opportunities for potential cooperation in the identified priority areas of shared services; tourism, culture, diaspora and creative industries; and energy and renewables. It provided an intense space (the modules were held at two-week intervals) in which the councils worked together to research and refine local and regional development issues for the area, as well as activities linked to the ongoing ICBAN-led, INTERREG-funded Spatial Planning Initiative. For example, the councils - with the support of both the ICLRD and iCBAN - fed their conclusions and recommendations into the regional spatial vision plan, *Regional Strategic Framework 2013-2027*, that was commissioned by ICBAN and funded under the INTERREG IVA Spatial Planning Initiative.

### **Northwest Training Programme: October 2010 – June 2011**

This programme focused on the theme of *Fostering Growth through Cooperation in the Northwest Region*. Donegal County Council, Derry City Council, the ILEX Regeneration Company and representatives of the Strabane and Limavady District Councils participated in this programme, which aimed to lead to a deeper understanding of the potential of the Northwest Region and the role of a cross-border Strategic Partnership Board in furthering strategic cooperation in the linked gateway between Letterkenny and Derry/Londonderry.

The materials introduced through the modules and ideas generated through working group discussions

were incorporated into the cross-border activities of the Donegal County Development Plan, the NW Partnership Board, and the 'One Plan for Derry-Londonderry'. Having won the designation as the UK's first Capital of Culture for 2013, potential thematic areas for cooperation across the North West included tourism, creative industries and cultural programming. Other priority cross-border themes included: enterprise development, vocational training and job creation; and the green economy and sustainable energy. There were also important cross-cutting themes such as greater accessibility to the Northwest region, transportation and spatial planning.

### **Newry/Dundalk Twin City Region Training Programme: November 2009 – May 2010**

Building on a previous ICLRD initiative, *The Newry-Dundalk Twin City Region: Supporting the Implementation of Cross-Border Collaborative Frameworks* (January 2009), the ICLRD organised a training programme, *Shaping and Managing Cross-Border Development*, for council officials, councillors and private sector representatives from Newry and Mourne District Council, Louth Local Authorities and Down District Council. The training raised awareness of the challenges and opportunities that the region faced, as well as the need for collaborative action, including the creation of stronger links between the communities in the wider Newry-Dundalk Twin-City region, such as Drogheda and Banbridge.

As a follow-up, the two Councils requested ICLRD's assistance to develop a cooperation agreement that built on their existing areas of cooperation, and opened up further opportunities for the sharing of services and joint management of key resources. The ICLRD outlined different types of instruments and institutional structures that could be used to facilitate cross-border cooperation and worked with the councils to draft the Memorandum of Understanding that identifies the initial areas of cooperation. These included: emergency planning; renewable energy and green technology; tourism and recreation; and sustainable economic growth and job creation. Cooperative structures are also outlined and include: a joint Committee of Elected Members; a joint





Prof. Robin Hambleton, University of West of England (Bristol) presenting to executive training programme delegates on place-based leadership, Glencarn Hotel, Castleblayney, October 2013.

Senior Management Group; an Advisory Forum; and Project Teams for implementation.

The agreement was approved by the respective councils in November 2010 and launched in Brussels in March 2011.

with comparable census information now available. The project team developed comparable datasets for the following themes: Population; Religion; Place of Birth; Ethnic Group; Housing Type, Tenure, Number of Rooms, Stock & Occupancy; Labour Force; Industry of Occupation; Mode of Transport; and General Health.

**COMPLETED RESEARCH REPORTS**



**Atlas of the Island of Ireland: Mapping Social and Economic Patterns (2015)**

*The Atlas of the Island of Ireland* – developed using 2011 Census data – provides

a comprehensive insight into various trends on the island of Ireland – from population to industry to religion to health. This will be an important tool for policy- and decision-makers across the public sector as they develop their next tranche of plans and strategies – and plan for a more sustainable future. All data was developed at the Small Area scale across the island – in total there are 23,025 geographical areas



**Cross-Border Greenways and Cycle Routes on the Island of Ireland (2014)**

This report entitled *Cross-Border Greenways and Cycle Routes on the Island of Ireland: A review of policies and future opportunities in the development of a regional network*, reviews national,

regional and local policies and potential opportunities relating to greenways and cycle routes on the island of Ireland so as to support local authorities and others in the development of a region-wide greenway and cycle route network on a cross-border basis. Developed as part of the greenways/ tourism pilot under the CroSPiAN II programme, the report contains a series of recommendations as to policy gaps in both jurisdictions



and identifies future opportunities (policy-, funding- and cycle route-related).



**Community and Spatial Planning in the Irish Border Region (2014)**

Under the auspices of the CroSPlaN II Programme, Ulster University were commissioned to undertake a piece of action research to consider the interfaces between land-use planning (reforms)

and community planning (innovation) in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland – with a specific focus on the Irish border region. The need for such research stemmed from the work of the Community Planning / Regeneration Working Group - as part of the CroSPlaN II Professional Education programme (Strand 2) - and the identified potential for tension between both types of planning. Published in January 2015, *Community Planning and Spatial Planning in the Irish Border Region: Shaping the relationship between people and place* recognises that there are vertical, horizontal and lateral dimensions to this potential interface between land-use and community planning. In response, the report written by Prof. Greg Lloyd and Mr. Gavan Rafferty addresses a number of the emerging questions around culture, capacity and competence in executing the new governance arrangements on an integrated basis.

**Cross-Border Emergency Planning on the Island of Ireland (2014)**

The existing arrangements and policies pertaining to emergency planning in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland are considered within this report, *Cross-Border Emergency Planning on the Island of Ireland: Existing Arrangements, Critical Issues and Learning from International Experience*, with a particular emphasis on their orientation towards cross-border cooperation in the event of a major emergency. The review sought to raise critical issues pertinent to the progression of cross-border cooperation on emergency planning on the island of Ireland. With this objective in mind, certain issues are identified that require further attention. A review of the academic and practice-based literature has

assisted in the identification of critical themes that should be addressed by proponents of closer cooperation, with lessons emanating from local and international examples usefully underlined.

**Charter for the Border Development Corridor (2014)**

A joint initiative with the Centre for Cross Border Studies, as part of the INICCO Programme, the ICLRD took a lead-role in preparing the *Draft Solidarity Charter for the Economic Revitalisation of the Irish Border Development Corridor*. The drafting was supported by a small working group chaired by Mr. Padraic White. The Charter will be used as a reference document to advocate for the prioritisation of investment and public policies around a number of key themes. A copy of the charter is available from both the ICLRD and the Centre for Cross Border Studies.



**Shared Services: Working Together for the Common Good (2013)**

This action research report outlines the attributes of shared services and documents current shared service initiatives as it is being pursued across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It identifies

the common areas where local government in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland can adapt a shared services agenda, particularly around those functions and responsibilities which can be classified as frontline and/or specialised services and which are citizen-focused. This report further maps the strengths and responsibilities of local government, North and South, and includes an overview of the existing functions of local government as well as future functions as a result of the emerging reform agendas in both jurisdictions.

**Briefing Report on Shared Services: Propositions for Local Government Collaboration (2012)**

This research focuses on the timely issue of shared services and discusses the emerging shared services agenda for both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland. The briefing paper, a companion paper to international



cases on shared services noted below, synthesises ICLRD's research to date on this topic as well as presentations by experts on the topic delivered during the ICLRD executive training programmes; there is a particular focus placed on the Irish border region. The paper reflects on potential directions

and approaches that could be incorporated into current programmes for providing services in a very constrained economic context.



**Shared Services Across Local Government – Sharing International Experiences (2012)**

This report explores international experiences in shared services and local government reform in four locations: Glasgow and the Clyde Valley in Scotland;

Mancomunidades in the Asturias Region of Spain; New York's Shared Services Programme; and Local Government Restructuring and Realignment in Ontario, Canada. The cases illustrate the rethinking of cooperation in the delivery of public services within geographical areas that may include more than one local authority, and how both structured and voluntary associations can be used to provide a range of services. The cases also highlight the associated challenges of multi-level governance in the provision of services, and the importance of leadership and trust in paving the way for future cooperation. This research will be of interest to senior management in local government and regional authorities, regional development agencies, cross-border networks and agencies, and national policy-makers.

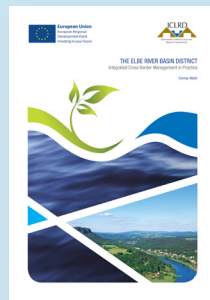
**Towards a Spatial Monitoring Framework for the Island of Ireland: A Scoping Study (2012)**

This report focuses on the application of data for the purpose of informing policy decisions, in particular with respect to the policy objectives and strategic ambitions of the *National Spatial Strategy* for the Republic of



Ireland (NSS) and the *Regional Development Strategy* for Northern Ireland (RDS). It draws on international experience at the European level and elsewhere in the UK. The report responds to the need for a joined-up approach to evidence-based planning given the emergence of multiple

spatial planning initiatives within the Irish cross-border region. International studies and experience indicate the importance of evidence-informed approaches to decision making, but also the dangers of relying on statistical or quantitative information without taking due account of the underlying processes the data represents. This is often represented as "data rich but insight poor". The study provides a valuable source of expert advice for policy-makers and practitioners at national and regional government levels.



**The Elbe River Basin District: Integrated Cross-Border Management in Practice (2012)**

This detailed case study focuses on the States of Berlin and Brandenburg in Germany and the Elbe International River Basin District (IRBD). It demonstrates

how one catchment area applied both regulatory and non-regulatory measures to integrate water quality improvements with regional land-use plans. This document presents many insights of relevance to International River Basin Districts, and Water Framework Directive implementation on the island of Ireland more broadly.

**The Connecticut River Basin: Integrating Water Quality Improvements with Regional Land-Use Plans (2012)**

This U.S. case study demonstrates how one watershed applied both regulatory and non-regulatory measures to integrate water quality improvements with regional land-use plans. It describes how regional partnerships and,



in particular collaboration with civic society, is instrumental to managing river basins that span multiple jurisdictions. It notes that while Directives and legislation are important in setting the regulatory parameters, individual river basins need champions to drive regional partnerships that bring

together officials, politicians, civil society, recreational users, environmental organisations, land owners and the private sector to improve water quality and enhance opportunities for (re)connecting with the river through recreational uses.



**Responding to the Environmental Challenge? Spatial Planning, Cross-Border Cooperation and River Basin Management (2011)**

This study examines the key role that spatial planning should play in the implementation of River Basin Management

Plans (RBMP) under the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). The study takes an all-island and cross-border perspective and draws key insights through 'good practice' case studies from Germany and the United States.

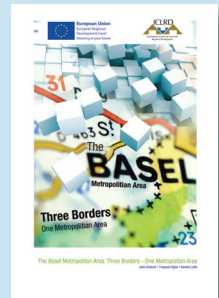
The study sets out strategic options regarding the governance of RBMP and WFD implementation in both Ireland and Northern Ireland. These options, drawing on research and interviews with key stakeholders, can inform discussions among government departments, environmental agencies and other public sector bodies on both sides of the Irish border. The case studies pay particular attention to the benefits of joint management of International River Basin Districts. The study raises important questions regarding the role of spatial planning in environmental management and sets out seven key requirements for effective coordination between river basin management and spatial planning. These requirements include recommendations in relation to

communication, development of expertise, leadership capacity, allocation of resources and inter-jurisdictional cooperation.

**Governance and Planning: An International Perspective (2010)**

The ICLRD published a series of international case studies in inter-jurisdictional and cross-boundary governance and planning to complement the recently concluded study *All Change But Any Alignment?* (see below). This research presents examples of innovative practice in collaboration in the following areas:

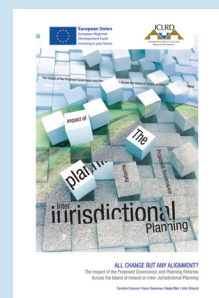
- *Basel Metropolitan Area* – spanning Germany, France and Switzerland, this case study highlights emerging cross-border cooperation in spatial planning at the sub-regional level;
- *Mancomunidades in Spain* – focuses on provision of services through inter-municipal collaboration at the level of the micro-region; and
- *Boston Metropolitan Area* – provides examples of how to promote regional development through cooperation among local governments, metropolitan planning organisations, the business community and research organisations.



Together, the three case studies provide practical examples of how cooperation in local and regional development can be shaped by collaborative efforts. They highlight how territorial cooperation, particularly in the EU, is moving towards 'placed-based strategies' as promoted in the EU 2020 Strategy.

**All Change But Any Alignment? The Impact of the Proposed Governance and Planning Reforms Across the Island of Ireland on Inter-Jurisdictional Planning (2010)**

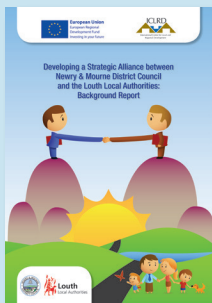
Completed in June 2010, this report focuses on inter-





jurisdictional planning and multi-level governance and was published on the ICLRD website. The study considers:

- The various iterations of, and processes involved in, the Review of Public Administration (RPA), specifically as it relates to the reform of local government;
- If and / or how inter-jurisdictional spatial planning policies and operations will be more closely aligned following the various reforms to governance and planning on the island of Ireland; and
- Whether, in the context of the current economic downturn, there is greater political and community support for the alignment of spatial planning policies.



**Developing a Strategic Alliance between Newry and Mourne District Council and the Louth Local Authorities: Background Report (2010)**

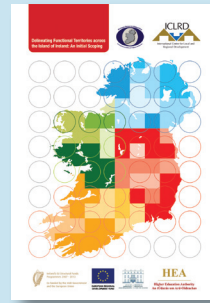
Louth Local Authorities and Newry and Mourne District Council took a major step in the promotion of cross-

border partnership in the Irish border region with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in March 2011 to cooperate in a number of thematic areas, including: emergency planning, renewable energy and green technology, tourism and recreation, sustainable economic growth and job creation.

In support of this development, the ICLRD report considers a variety of legal instruments to facilitate cross-border cooperation including: Euro-regions, European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation, European Economic Interest Groupings and ad-hoc agreements. It recommends that the cross-border local authorities adopt a legally non-binding Memorandum of Understanding as the basis for cooperation; the agreement can be expanded to include other regional stakeholders in the future.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, a new Louth/Newry and Mourne Joint Council Committee was established to progress joint

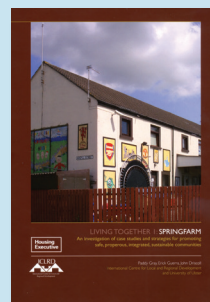
initiatives, and the two Councils are now sharing council officers and staff in a shared office to implement the MOU.



**Delineating Functional Territories Across the Island of Ireland: An Initial Scoping (2010)**

Published in October 2010, this report considers the various options for mapping functional territories across the island of Ireland. In undertaking a preliminary

analysis of Functional Urban Areas (FUAs) of the Irish / Northern Irish urban systems, this study includes maps of natural catchments, travel-to-work catchments, origin-destination data, gravity models and urban functional specialisations. The focus of Phase I was to explore the various possibilities of mapping functional territories to produce a set of outputs based on datasets that were available to the research team. The resulting report illustrates the contribution that dynamic spatial analysis of urban functions can make in the profiling of the relational status, performance and potential of urban centres across the island. The research has been carried out by a multi-disciplinary team within ICLRD and funded by the Higher Education Authority (HEA).



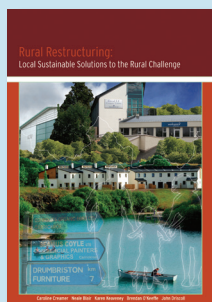
**Living Together – An Investigation of Case Studies and Strategies for Promoting Safe, Integrated and Sustainable Communities (2009)**

This research project investigates initiatives and policies in both Northern Ireland and Ireland to improve and

build subsidised housing in mixed communities through the lens of six case studies, namely Springfarm (Antrim), the Irish Street and Gobnascale interface (Londonderry/Derry) and Carran Crescent (Enniskillen) in Northern Ireland, and Cranmore (Sligo), Mahon (Cork) and Adamstown (Dublin) in Ireland. Together, they provide a cross-section of the challenges faced by communities



working to promote or provide mixed housing, the strategies that have helped address these challenges and opportunities to create and maintain housing that is safe, prosperous and open to all. The six case studies were published in association with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) in Belfast and the Housing Agency in Dublin.



**Rural Restructuring: Local Sustainable Solutions to the Rural Challenge (2009)**

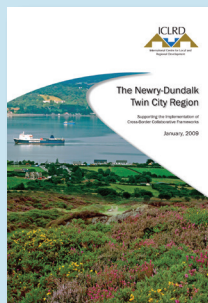
On the 19th June 2009, this report was launched by Minister Michelle Gildernew, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and Andy Pollak, Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS).

The culmination of a 12-month research project, the research considers the role of rural restructuring and economic diversification, together with the growing importance of the urban-rural interface, in the achievement of balanced spatial development. The programme of research focused on three rural areas, namely Draperstown, Magherafelt District, Emyvale-Truagh-Aughnacloy on the Monaghan-Tyrone border and Duhallow spanning the Cork-Kerry border.

Both Draperstown and Duhallow have been engaged in the process of rural restructuring for the past 25 years and have built up a wealth of experience over this time. For Emyvale-Truagh-Aughnacloy, the challenges facing this rural community have been further exacerbated by its cross-border location and the impact of decades of back-to-back policy development across both administrations (North and South). Building on over 80 interviews, as well as a wealth of secondary data, the research team also developed a series of working papers on each area and held a one-day conference on the issue of rural restructuring in May 2009 (see p.88).

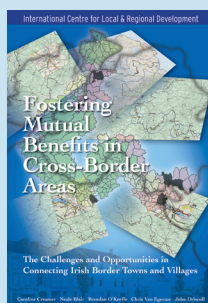
**Newry-Dundalk Twin City Region: Supporting the Implementation of Cross-Border Collaborative Frameworks (2009)**

The ICLRD undertook this research initiative in cooperation with Louth County Council, Newry Mourne



District Council, Dundalk Town Council and InterTradelreland. Its objective was to identify (a) potential projects that can bring long-term benefits to the 'Twin-City' Region of Newry-Dundalk and (b) models of cooperation to assist in their implementation.

The resulting report was launched on 27th February 2009 by Conor Murphy, MP MLA, Minister for Regional Development in Northern Ireland, and John Gormley, TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in Ireland, at a special event at the Carrickdale Hotel, Ravensdale, Dundalk, County Louth. The report brings together recent and current research on how to realise the benefits of cross-border collaboration in the Newry-Dundalk Sub Region through integrated planning and development strategies.



**Fostering Mutual Benefits in Cross-Border Areas: The Challenges and Opportunities in Connecting Irish Border Towns and Villages (2008)**

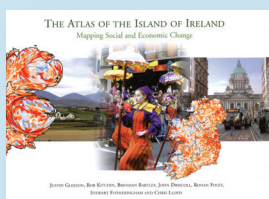
This 18-month research programme focussed on the inter-relationships between cross-border towns and villages

in the Irish border region. The final report was launched in Blacklion, County Cavan on the 21st November 2008 by renowned journalist and author, Colm Toibin. The research considers the relationship and connectivity that exist between five cross-border settlement groupings and identifies and examines the challenges facing and opportunities within these micro-regions. The border towns and villages included in the study were:

- Lifford-Strabane
- Kiltyclogher-Cashel/Scribbagh-Garrison-Rossinver
- Blacklion-Belcoo-Glenfarne
- Clones-Rosslea-Newtownbutler-Lisnaskea
- Castleblayney-Crossmaglen.

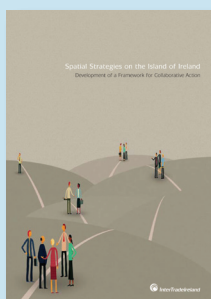


The key objective of this study was to identify good practices in joined-up planning and regeneration for inter-connected, cross-border areas with a particular emphasis on collaborative efforts that have supported local economic development, social cohesion and mutual benefits. In addition, the study sought to identify factors associated with successful collaboration through review of projects with a history of successful interaction and outcomes, including institutional frameworks for collaboration.



**The Atlas of the Island of Ireland – Mapping Social and Economic Change (2008)**

On the occasion of the ICLRD's third annual conference on 17th January 2008, the ICLRD and AIRO launched *The Atlas of the Island of Ireland*, a set of detailed full colour maps and cartograms of varied socio-economic indicators across the island. The Atlas, co-authored by Justin Gleeson, Rob Kitchin, Brendan Bartley, John Driscoll, Ronan Foley, Stewart Fotheringham and Chris Lloyd, was launched by Tommie Gorman, Northern Editor of Radio Telefis Eireann (RTE).



**Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland: Development of a Framework for Collaborative Action (2006)**

This report was prepared by the ICLRD and commissioned by InterTradeIreland on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and

Local Government in Ireland and the Department for Regional Development in Northern Ireland. The report outlines measures to better align spatial planning, infrastructure and cross-border projects to support long-term economic competitiveness, and has been endorsed by the Joint Communique of the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference. Both Governments

became committed to developing a framework for collaborative action between the two existing spatial strategies on the Island.

**CONFERENCES**



**The Housing Debate: (Re) Building our Communities through Integrated Working with Local Government (10 September 2015, Maynooth University)**

In conjunction with Co-operation Ireland, the ICLRD held a one-day conference on Thursday 10th September

2015 on the theme of *The Housing Debate: (Re) Building our Communities through Integrated Working with Local Government*. This event, organised as part of Co-operation Ireland's All-Island Local Authorities Forum, took place on the campus of Maynooth University. And like previous events between both agencies, it was jointly funded by the Department of Environment, Northern Ireland and Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Republic of Ireland. Key issues addressed during the course of the day included:

- Changing housing needs – what the evidence tells us;
- The evolving roles of central government, local government and housing providers in delivering housing and in place-making;
- The role of local government in housing and local regeneration;
- What role for planning in housing provision and the housing crisis?
- The current housing crisis – cause, effect, solutions?

**ICLRD Tenth Annual Conference: Shared Services, Shared Opportunities: New Models of Public Sector Collaboration and Partnership (29-30 January 2015, Killyhevlin hotel, Enniskillen)**

A joint ICLRD/CCBS event, the theme of this two-day conference was *Shared Services, Shared Opportunities: New Models of Public Sector Collaboration and*



*Partnership*, particularly topical in light of recent and imminent changes to the structure of local government in both jurisdictions. The conference considered the opportunities presented by local government reform – specifically in terms of developing new ways of cooperating across jurisdictional

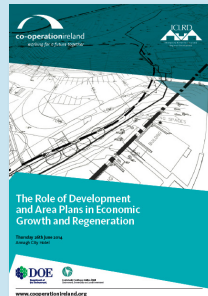
boundaries. Conference sessions included:

- *Shared Services, Shared Opportunities* - Considering the increasing focus being placed on the shared services agenda in both Ireland and Northern Ireland - and the role of various sectors in driving and/or delivering on this agenda;
- *Shared Services – A Local Government Perspective* - providing an overview of the shared services agenda from the practitioners perspective - the who, the why, the what, and the how;
- *Shared Services in Practice – Emerging Agendas for Local Government* – taking the themes of climate change, emergency management and sustainable development considering the inter-relationship between each in terms of both policy and practice, the scope for a shared services agenda and the role of such an agenda in building resilient communities; and
- *Progressing Shared Services – Cooperation, Innovation and Civic Leadership* – debating the role of shared services across local government and, where relevant, the sectors in which such an agenda can be most effectively pursued; with a particular focus being placed on the low carbon agenda, sustainable transport and emergency management.

**The Role of Development and Area Plans in Economic Growth and Regeneration**

26 June 2014, Armagh City Hotel

Organised in conjunction with Co-operation Ireland, this one-day conference considered *The Role of Development and Area Plans in Economic Growth and Regeneration*. Held in the Armagh City Hotel, the conference was held as part of Co-operation Ireland's



All-Ireland Local Authorities Forum, and was jointly funded by the Department of Environment, Northern Ireland and Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Republic of Ireland. Issues addressed by delegates and speakers included:

- An overview of the current Local Government Reform Processes, North and South, with a particular emphasis being placed on spatial planning and visioning for the future;
- The need for greater alignment between economic development, regeneration and spatial planning;
- Developing effective Development Plans / Area Plans, and considering their linkages to Community Planning;
- Nurturing a professional working relationship between council officials, elected representatives and other key stakeholders; and
- The practicalities of operating within the spatial planning system, with an emphasis on the development plan process.



**ICLRD Ninth Annual Conference: Cross Border Economic Development and the Border Development Zone Concept**

30-31 January 2014, Cavan Crystal Hotel, Cavan

A joint ICLRDC/CCBS event, the theme of this two-day conference was *Cross Border*

*Economic Development and the Border Development Zone Concept* and considered the type of cooperative models we should be pursuing in the context of: ongoing local government reform across the island of Ireland; continued austerity; the increasing availability of data; and the unceasing need for strategic development. The conference addressed these very topical issues over four themed sessions:





- *Local Government as Drivers of Territorial Cohesion* - considering the application of Territorial Cohesion, and its core objectives, in the Irish border region, particularly over the period 2014-2020; and the role of cross-border cooperation, whether driven by local or regional government, in driving forward an economic agenda;
- *Introduction to the Border Development Zone (BDZ) Concept* - providing an overview of the BDZ in terms of strategy and structure with the discussion centring on its spatial, sectoral & institutional make-up;
- *Local Government Working Across Borders: Learning from Scotland* – drawing from the Scottish experience, a cross-border, inter-regional debate focusing on dynamic local economic development; and
- *Progressing the Border Development Zone* – debating how to further the development of the BDZ and, where relevant, who will now take a 'lead' in driving this objective forward.

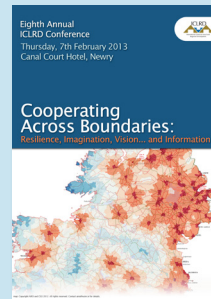


**Planning Reform on the Island of Ireland: From Policy to Practice**

2 May 2013, Canal Court Hotel, Newry, County Down

In conjunction with Co-operation Ireland, this one-day conference *Planning Reform on the Island of Ireland: From Policy to Practice* considered the significant changes being made to the planning system in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland as part of the ongoing local government reform programmes. Held as part of Co-operation Ireland's All-Island Local Authorities Forum, the conference was jointly funded by the Department of Environment, Northern Ireland and Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Republic of Ireland. Issues addressed by delegates and speakers included: the shaping of planning policy and practice in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland; the role of planning in the promotion of economic development at a local and regional level; the importance of local knowledge and public inputs in informing policy

and decision-making; the challenges of infrastructure – development alignment; the (growing) significance of renewable energies in sustainable – and economic – development; and the role of data and an evidence-base in informing policy and decision-making.



**Eighth Annual Conference: Cooperating Across Boundaries: Resilience, Imagination, Vision and Information**

7 February 2013, Canal Court Hotel, Newry, County Down

This one-day event considered what type of cooperative models we should be pursuing in the context of ongoing local government reform across the island of Ireland, continued austerity, the increasing availability of data, and the unceasing need for strategic development. The conference addressed these issues through three themed sessions:

- *New Thinking and Ongoing Challenges in Planning for Places and Communities* – exploring the role of planning and regeneration in creating resilient places and connected communities;
- *The Shared Services Agenda: Cooperating Across Boundaries* – considering how to encourage and support shared opportunities in providing services and strategic cooperation; and
- *Open Forum: Advocating Strategic Agendas and Pathways to Decision-Making* – debating the extent to which inter-municipal and cross-jurisdictional cooperation is an important factor in contributing to innovation and sustainable development.

Speakers included Ms. Jenny Pyper, Department for Social Development (Northern Ireland); Prof. Frank Gaffikin, Queens University Belfast; John Fitzgerald, Limerick Regeneration Agencies; Prof. Deborah Peel, University of Ulster; Niall Cussen, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government; Siobhan Coughlan, Local Government Improvement and Development (formerly IDEA); Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe, Mary Immaculate College & University of Limerick; Aidan Gough, InterTradelreland; Prof. Rob Kitchin, NUI

Maynooth; Seamus Neely, Donegal County Council; Ciaran Cuffe, Planner, Lecturer and Former Government Minister; and Mary Bunting, Former Northern Joint Secretary, North South Ministerial Council.



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

19-20 January 2012, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth

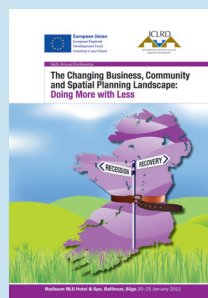
Attended by 135 delegates and speakers, the conference was organised as part of our CroSPlan Initiative funded by the Special EU Programmes Body under the INTERREG IVA Programme. The conference was organised around three main sessions:

- *The Collaborative Framework: Cross-Border Regionalism in Action* – the role of new regionalism in enhancing cooperation within functional regions
- *Leadership through Planning: Demonstrating Leadership in Achieving the 'Common Good'* – debating the role of communities, the private sector, and planners in learning from the past and planning a new future.
- *Planning the Future: Rethinking the Role of Planning, Governance and Community* – bringing together delegates and speakers to consider the role and future of planning and local and regional development, and the opportunities and implications of emerging EU agendas on policy and practice.

The island of Ireland and its European neighbours face similar challenges in terms of the global economic downturn, stagnant development and the legacy of over a decade of sometimes ill-planned development. These challenges have knock-on implications for cross-border cooperation, sustainable development and engaging local authorities, businesses and residents in shaping their communities. The Seventh Annual ICLR Conference considered models of collaboration across borders, and between local government and other key local agencies. Both presenters and delegates alike

were asked to identify workable new approaches to planning and the delivery of services.

Speakers and session chairs included: Caroline Creamer and Tim O'Connor, ICLR; Jenny Pyper, Department for Social Development, Northern Ireland; Justin Gleeson, All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO); Maria-Jose Doval-Tedin, DG Regional Policy, European Commission; Allan Wallis, University of Colorado, Denver; Ciarán M. Tracey, Leitrim County Council; Anne Garvey, Department of Environment, Northern Ireland; John Driscoll, ICLR; Colin Stutt, Colin Stutt Consulting; Deborah Peel, University of Ulster; Karina Pallagst, University of Technology, Germany; Alice Charles, Alice Charles Planning; Mary Corcoran, NUI Maynooth; Caitriona Mullan, ICLR Advisory Board; Vincent Goodstadt, Independent Consultant and University of Manchester; and the Honourable Kelley O'Brien, Chicagoland Tri-State Metropolitan OECD Review.



**Sixth Annual Conference: The Changing Business, Community and Spatial Planning Landscape: Doing More with Less**

20-21 January 2011, Radisson BLU Hotel, Ballinac, Sligo

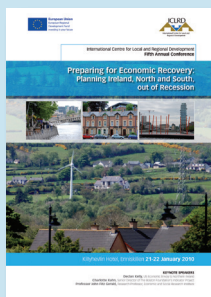
Attended by 110 people representing central, regional and local government, elected representatives, policy-makers, cross-border networks, community activists, academics and representatives of the business community, this two-day conference was sponsored by the Special EU Programmes Body. The conference was organised around four sessions:

- *Planning for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Growth*
- *Planning for Homes and People: New Challenges, New Agendas*
- *Planning for Shared Innovation: Infrastructure to Support Innovation-Led Recovery*
- *A Changing Landscape: Networking, Collaborating and Achieving Greater Efficiencies.*



Recognising that the past twelve months had represented a time of significant change for the island of Ireland, the conference focused on the changing budgetary, legislative and policy landscape, and the practical realities of reduced budgets. It debated the need for implementing a period of austerity, and the opportunities this can create for renaissance and resurgence.

Speakers and session chairs included: Nicholas Retsinas, Harvard Business School; Shaun Henry, Special EU Programmes Body; Greg Lloyd, University of Ulster; David Walsh, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Jenny Pyper, Department for Regional Development; Eddy Curtis, Newry and Mourne District Council; Pádraig Maguire, Border Regional Authority; Brian Rowntree, Northern Ireland Housing Executive; Justin Gleeson, All-Island Research Observatory; Joe Frey, Northern Ireland Housing Executive; Rob Kitchin, National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis; Grainia Long, Chartered Institute of Housing Northern Ireland; Aidan Gough, InterTradelreland; Dermot Byrne, Eirgrid; Frank McDonald, The Irish Times; Gary McDarby, University College Dublin; Tracy Meharg, Invest Northern Ireland; Feargal McCormack, FPM Accountants; Patricia O'Hara, National Statistics Board; James Cunningham, Centre for Innovation and Structural Change; and Tim O'Connor, former Secretary-General to President McAleese's Office.



**Fifth Annual Conference:  
Preparing for Economic  
Recovery: Planning Ireland,  
North and South, out of  
Recession**

*21-22 January 2010,  
Killyheviin Hotel, Enniskillen, Co.  
Fermanagh*

Over 130 people attended this two-day event, which was sponsored by the Special EU Programmes Body under CroSPlaN. Pat Colgan, the Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body, opened the conference; Professor John FitzGerald of

the Economic and Social Research Institute gave the opening keynote address; and Declan Kelly, the U.S. Economic Envoy to Northern Ireland gave the closing. The conference was organised around four sessions:

- *Health Check on Economic Development, Planning and Infrastructure*
- *Planning and Economic Recovery – The Social and Community Dimension*
- *Building the Platform for Economic Recovery*
- *Recovery through Collaborative Spatial Planning.*

The conference addressed questions on how spatial planning can contribute to the process of economic recovery across the island of Ireland in a balanced and sustainable manner. The presentations and discussions over the two days considered: who we should be planning for; how to ensure that the right places receive the right investment and therefore jobs; why we need to ensure that residential development takes place in places where people will want to live; and the role of infrastructure in improving accessibility and, in the case of broadband, employment opportunities and quality of life.

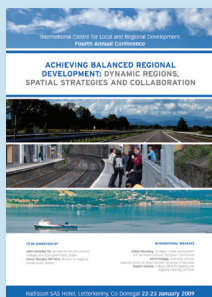
Keynote speakers from overseas included Charlotte Kahn, Director of the Boston Indicators Project at the Boston Foundation, and Holly St. Clair, Director of Data Services at the Boston-Region Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Other speakers and commentators who provided insights into the role of spatial planning in the process of economic recovery included Pat McArdle, Economist and Irish Times correspondent; Conor Skehan, Head Environment and Planning Department, Dublin Institute of Technology; Wesley Shannon, Director Local Government Policy Division, Department of Environment; Hubert Kearns, Manager, Sligo County Council; Patricia Potter, Director of the Dublin Regional Authority; Dr. Celine McHugh, Senior Policy Advisor with Forfás; and Brian Murray, Chief Executive of The Workspace Group.



**Rural Restructuring: Local Sustainable Solutions to the Rural Challenge**

*8 May 2009, Blackwater Learning Centre, Knockconan, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan*

A one-day conference on rural restructuring and development organised by the ICLRD, this event was attended by over 110 delegates from community and local development agencies, local government officials, businesses and business networks, practitioners, policy-makers and academics. Speakers of note included Roger Turner of the Commission for Rural Communities; Geoff Brown of the Carnegie UK Trust; Dr. Kevin Heanue of Teagasc; and Maura Walsh of IRD Duhallow. The event, chaired by Michael Kenny of NUI Maynooth, was an opportunity to present emerging findings from the rural study, and participants addressed and debated a wide range of rural development issues.



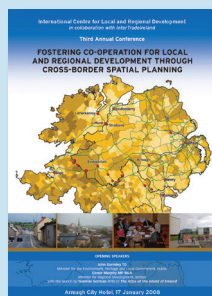
**Fourth Annual Conference: Achieving Balanced Regional Development: Dynamic Regions, Spatial Strategies and Collaboration.**

*22-23 January 2009, Radisson Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal*

The conference focused on issues of strategic territorial planning and balanced regional development. This was achieved through a focus on specific EU territorial policies and a number of the designated gateways on the island of Ireland, including those that cross borders and jurisdictions: namely the Northwest Gateway, the Newry-Dundalk 'Twin-City' Region, the Atlantic Gateway and the Cork Gateway. Furthermore, presentations from the Department for Regional Development, Northern Ireland and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Ireland discussed the opportunities that are emerging for inter-jurisdictional cooperation, and the role of gateways and regions within and between the respective spatial strategies. The conference was attended by over 130 delegates, speakers and chairs from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland, England, Hungary, Germany, the Skane

Region in Sweden, and the States of Massachusetts, Maryland and Virginia in the United States.

Keynote speakers from overseas included Steve Quartermain, Chief Planning Officer in the Department for Communities and Local Government in London; Jim MacKinnon, Director for the Built Environment in the Scottish Government; Grant Duncan, Head of the Sustainable Futures Division in the Welsh Assembly Government; Dr. Gabor Novotny, from the European Commission's DG Regio (Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion); Dr. Rupert Kawka from the German Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning; and Professor Gerrit Knapp, Director, National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, University of Maryland.



**Third Annual Conference: Fostering Cooperation for Local and Regional Development through Cross-Border Spatial Planning**

*17 January 2008, Armagh City Hotel*

Held in collaboration with InterTradeIreland, the ICLRD Third Annual Conference focused on how long-term economic success, coupled with high quality of life on the island of Ireland, can be achieved by harnessing the potential of sustainable communities which transcend the Border. Opened jointly by Batt O'Keeffe TD, Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas, and Conor Murphy MP MLA, Minister for Regional Development, the conference was attended by 143 delegates representing local and central government, cross-border agencies, the private sector and community organisations.

Among the key issues and research papers presented at the all-day conference were how to implement and finance a collaborative spatial framework, proposals and project areas that can deliver on a cross-border sub-regional strategy for Newry-Dundalk, research and recommendations on how cross-border towns can be



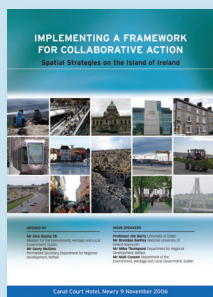
reconnected and revitalised; and the role of housing in building sustainable communities.

**Supporting Evidence-Informed Spatial Planning and Analysis: Towards the Development of All-Island Spatial Databases**

*15 November 2007, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk*

Organised jointly by the ICLRD, the Regional Studies Association, the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, the National Centre for Geo-Computation and AIRO, this one-day event was attended by over a 100 delegates. The conference presented the findings of two earlier seminars on the kind of spatial indicators needed to assist in high quality analysis for evidence-based planning and policy. The seminars were held in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and the University of Ulster.

Presentations by leading academics and researchers were made on all-island indicators, data applications, maps and key issues around the type, scale and form of potential all-island datasets. Senior policy-makers offered comments on how these initiatives can support both policies and specific projects to foster cross-border cooperation in the areas of spatial planning, service delivery, economic competitiveness and investment strategies.



**Second Annual Conference: Implementing a Framework for Collaborative Action: Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland**

*9 November 2006, The Canal Court Hotel, Newry, Co. Down*

A key focus of the conference was an examination of (a) the range of regional and local spatial planning initiatives for key development areas identified in the existing spatial strategies and (b) the role of the business community and private sector in inter-jurisdictional development.

The opening speakers were Mr. Dick Roche TD, Irish

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, and Mr. Gerry McGinn, Permanent Secretary of the Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development. Other speakers included the prominent Dublin architect Mr. Sean O'Laoire, the property developer Mr. Gerard O'Hare, and senior planning officials from both Irish jurisdictions and from the European Commission.

**First Annual Conference: Regional and Local Development Strategies on the Island of Ireland – Addressing Key Issues and Building Capacity**

*27 May 2004, Radisson Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath*

This one-day event was opened by the Irish Minister for Education and Science, Mr. Noel Dempsey TD, and was attended by 160 senior figures from central and local government, higher education institutions and the private sector in both jurisdictions. As well as investigating if there was a role for a research centre such as the ICLRD on the island of Ireland, the conference debated whether the many planning and development issues, North and South, were similar in nature. As to the establishment of the ICLRD, there was overall feedback from participants that the Centre should be established.

As well as organising its own conferences, the ICLRD has been invited to present its work at a number of events hosted by other agencies. These have included:

- *Bordering, Border, People and Place: Leadership, Local Government and the Border*, Presentation to Conference of Irish Geographers, Belfast, 21st May 2015 (Caroline Creamer)
- *Shared Services – Working for the Common Good*, Presentation to the Joint ICLRD/CCBS Conference, Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, 29th January 2015 (Caroline Creamer)
- *Agreements Facilitating Cooperation Across Jurisdictional Boundaries* Presentation to The Shared Services Learning Network Workshop, Belfast, 14th January 2015 (Andrew McClelland)
- *Working Together for the Future of the Cross Border Regions*, Presentation to the NWRCBG Cross-Border



## BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

- Connections Conference, Buncrana, 2nd October 2014 (Prof. Greg Lloyd)
- *An Action Plan for the NWPB*, Presentation to the North West Partnership Board, Derry, 1st July 2014 (John Driscoll)
  - *Emergency Planning, the Fire Service and the Shared Services Agenda: A Different Model for a New Future?*, Presentation to Annual Conference of the Chief Fire Officers Association, Naas, 8th May 2014 (Caroline Creamer)
  - *Potential Roles, Functions and Partnerships for the NWPB*, Presentation to North West Partnership Board, Derry, 19th November 2013 (John Driscoll)
  - *Developing a New Way of Thinking about People and Places*, Presentation to Connect 4 Conference, Dublin, 19th November 2013 (Caroline Creamer)
  - *Cross-border Observation between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland: Building Mutual Understanding*, MOT's First European Seminar on Observation of Cross-Border Territories, City Hall, Nancy, France, 10 December 2012 (Caroline Creamer)
  - *Data Capture: Information Rich, Insight Poor?*, ICBAN Spatial Planning Conference, Hotel Kilmore, Cavan, 1 December 2011 (Prof. Rob Kitchin and Justin Gleeson)
  - *The International Centre for Local and Regional Development: Purpose, Principles and Process*, Presentation on the ICLRD to a South African Delegation from Cacadu Municipality, Armagh City Hotel, 22 November 2011 (Caroline Creamer and Neale Blair)
  - *Cross-Border Local Authority Training Across the Island of Ireland*, INICCO International Conference on Cross-Border Training and Impact Assessment, Radisson Blu Hotel, Cavan, 27 October 2011 (Caroline Creamer)
  - *Indicator Development and Monitoring for the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines*, ESPON Ireland Dublin, 28th September 2011 (Jim Hetherington)
  - *What is Spatial Planning?* Irish Central Border Area Network Conference on Spatial Planning, Manor House Hotel, Killadeas, 15 September 2011 (Neale Blair)
  - *Fixing 'Broken' Government: Functional Territories as an Impetus for Reform*, Regional Studies Association Conference, University of Manchester, 2 November 2010 (Caroline Creamer, Neale Blair and Justin Gleeson)
  - *Combating Rural Poverty and Social Exclusion*, Pobal Conference, Drogheda, 21 October 2010 (Karen Keaveney)
  - *Community Building through Growing Leadership: the Challenge of the Border*, Presentation to Eisenhower-Loeb Fellows, The Newman Building, Dublin, 5 May 2010 (Caroline Creamer and Karen Keaveney)
  - *Inter-Municipal collaboration across borders: Overcoming Legal and Institutional Differences in the Irish Border Region*, American Association of Geographers Annual (AAG) Conference, 14 April 2010 (John Driscoll)
  - *Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Regeneration on the Island of Ireland*, UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference, Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford, 7-9 April 2010 (Karen Keaveney)
  - *Rural Interfaces: Reconciling Perception with Reality*, Sharing Our Space Event Killyhevin Hotel, Enniskillen, 4 March 2010 (Caroline Creamer)
  - *Divergence in Policy and Practice: Government and Community Perspectives on Rural Development*, National University of Ireland, Galway, 2 December 2009 (Brendan O'Keeffe and Caroline Creamer)
  - *Rural Restructuring: Local Sustainable Solutions to the Rural Challenge*, NSMC Sectoral Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Development, Greenmount College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Antrim, 21 July 2009 (Caroline Creamer, Neale Blair, Karen Keaveney and Brendan O'Keeffe)
  - *The Color of Money: The (Changing) Role of Funding in Cross-Border Collaboration*, MOPAN Conference, NUI Maynooth, 18 June 2009 (Caroline Creamer and Neale Blair)
  - *Rural Restructuring: an Opportunity within a Challenge*, Conference of Irish Geographers, University College Cork, 16 May 2009 (Caroline Creamer and Brendan O'Keeffe)
  - *Understanding and Shaping Regions: Spatial, Social and Economic Futures* Leuven, Belgium in April 2009 (Brendan O'Keeffe)
  - *Shaping our Future: Reviewing Northern Ireland's*



## BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

*Regional Development Strategy* at the Stormont Hotel in Belfast, 5 November 2008 (Brendan Bartley)

- *Stuck Behind a Tractor! The Celtic Tiger and its Slow Chug towards the Border*, First Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP) Conference, Dublin City University, 11 September 2008 (Caroline Creamer and Brendan O'Keeffe)
- *Border Effective: The Economic Competitiveness Challenge Facing Towns and Villages in the Irish Border Region*, ERSA Congress 2008, University of Liverpool, 28 August 2008 (Caroline Creamer)
- *Shared Future – Shaping the Fabric of our Communities*, Cork, 24-25 April 2008 (John Driscoll)
- *Drivers of Connectivity: Understanding the Nature, Challenges and Potentials*, Presentation on ICLRD to Croatian Delegation, Armagh City Hotel, 2 April 2008 (Caroline Creamer)
- *Northern Europe, Planning Together for a Sustainable Future* in Inverness, Scotland, 11-15 November 2007 (Brendan Bartley)
- *Cooperation in the Twin-City Region*, Ballymascanlon House, Dundalk, 1 November 2007 Dundalk Chamber's Annual Conference Border Vision Gateway, (John Driscoll)

### SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

During 2014-15, the ICLRD continued to hold seminars on topical cross-border issues; with a strong emphasis being placed on evidence-informed policy and planning.

#### **Mapping Census 2011: Key trends and implications for policy and practice on the island of Ireland**

*29 January 2016, Enniskillen*

This annual ICLRD technical workshop, organised in association with the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) and the Centre for Cross Border Studies, was held on 29th January 2015 at Killyhevlin Hotel. This event marked the end of a one-year programme of census seminars – each addressing a different theme – considering the policy implications of the trends

emerging from Census 2011. As part of this morning event, the *Atlas of the Island of Ireland: Mapping Social and Economic Patterns* was previewed.

#### **Mapping Census 2011: Key trends and implications for policy and practice on the island of Ireland**

*30 January 2014, Cavan*

This annual ICLRD technical workshop, organised in association with the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO), was held on 30th January 2014 at Cavan Crystal Hotel. This was the first in a series of census seminars jointly hosted by the ICLRD and AIRO over 2014 on the findings and trends emerging from an analysis of the respective 2011 Censuses for Ireland and Northern Ireland. This workshop focused on:

- *Demography on the Island of Ireland: Population, Nationality & Ethnicity*
- *Economy: Employment, Industries, Where People Work, Unemployment*

#### **Framework for Co-operation: Spatial Strategies for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland**

*15 October 2013, Castleblayney*

This afternoon event celebrated the long awaited launch of the *Framework for Co-operation: Spatial Strategies for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland*, a joint publication by the Department for Regional Development (Northern Ireland) and Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (Ireland). This innovative approach to strategic development is the first such spatial planning framework on the island of Ireland, and seeks to influence strategic issues of economic competitiveness, place making, environmental quality, and evidence-based decision making. The Framework, first mooted by the ICLRD in a 2006 study sponsored by InterTradeIreland, will be particularly helpful in light of new local government reform policies and the bringing together of local authorities, cross-border bodies and the regional networks in the Irish border region who share common challenges and opportunities.

The Framework was launched by Tom Reid of DRD and Niall Cussen of DoECLG as part of Module 3 of the



## **BORDERLANDS**

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

ICLRD's Executive Training and Animation Programme (delivered as part of the INTERREG-funded CroSPlan II programme).

### **Shared Services in the Irish Border Region**

*22 March 2013, Cavan*

This afternoon seminar with representatives from local government in the Irish border region considered what is meant by shared services and the range of activities under which a shared services agenda is currently being pursued across the island of Ireland. Drawing on previous research carried out by the ICLR, the key focus of the event was to debate the potential for local government to be a driver of the shared services agenda, and to consider in what sectors there was the most potential to pursue such a programme.

### **Informing the Present – Imagining the Future**

*6 February 2013, Newry*

Developed in cooperation with Newry and Mourne District Council and Louth Local Authorities, this technical workshop was held on 6th February 2013 at InterTradelreland. The focus of the workshop was the progress of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Newry and Mourne and Louth Local Authorities – developed by the Councils with the support of the ICLR. The workshop included a presentation by AIRO on *Mapping the 2011 Census: What it tells us about the Newry/Mourne-Louth Corridor* and a discussion among key stakeholders in the region on the importance of addressing both economic opportunities and common social and educational challenges.

### **Local Governance in the UK and Ireland: So Far, So Near.....**

*23-24 November 2012, Valenciennes*

As part of the Europe-wide, OLA (Observatory on Local Autonomy) Network, the ICLR together with the University of Valenciennes, France organised a two-day European symposium on local and regional governance. This event brought together high-level speakers and delegates from Britain, Ireland, Northern Ireland, France and other parts of Europe – including representatives

from ICBAN (Irish Central Border Area Network). The Valenciennes Conference was the first major OLA event to focus on these islands, and the ICBAN intervention served to document and analyse from a practical perspective the now embedded interfaces between the respective governance and planning systems on the island of Ireland specifically, and the evolving collaborations between the Irish and U.K. systems more generally. Other speakers focusing on Ireland included representatives from the Border Regional Authority, Western Development Commission, Institute of Public Administration, and Seán O'Riordáin and Associates.

OLA is a Europe-wide network, with representatives in thirty countries studying and advocating for local autonomy, decentralisation and better local governance. The ICLR has been affiliated to OLA since 2009, with Caroline Creamer (Maynooth University) and Dr. Brendan O'Keeffe (Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick) representing Ireland on the Network.

### **River Basin Management Plans: Cross-Border Cooperation and the Role of Spatial Planning**

*17 October 2012, Monaghan*

Building on a series of reports, including documentation of good practices in cross-border river management by the ICLR in 2011, the Centre and the Border Regional Authority jointly hosted a half-day seminar on river basin management on the island of Ireland. Attendees included senior planners and representatives from local government in the Irish border region, the Northern Ireland Environmental Agency and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. As well as considering international good practice for cross-border collaboration in river basin management, discussions and debate also centred on the structural changes being undertaken to improve the implementation of River Basin Management Plans in Ireland, and implementation issues and opportunities in Northern Ireland. The importance of small-scale approaches to water resource management was one of the key issues highlighted. Consideration was also given to local perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for river basin management, with an emphasis placed firmly on the need for a robust evidence-base, as





well as effective cross-sectoral and inter-jurisdictional communication.

### **Should Ambulances Stop at the Border? North-South Cooperation in Health**

*13 June 2012, Dublin*

This evening seminar, held in association with the Institute for British-Irish Studies (IBIS), University College Dublin and the Centre for Cross Border Studies, was attended by over 60 healthcare policy-makers, academics and professionals from across the island of Ireland. Chaired by Dr Maurice Hayes, the seminar addressed questions around an all-island strategy on health, and the desirability of deepening cross-border healthcare cooperation to increase access to specialist services and facilities.

The presentations and subsequent discussion noted the good relations that already exist in terms of cross-border collaboration in the coordination and delivery of healthcare services. In this context, the debate focused on local provision of services, the maintenance of services and issues around funding. In addition, the importance of an up-to-date evidence-base for ensuring coherent and equitable provision of services was emphasised.

### **Models of Cross-Border and Inter-Jurisdictional Cooperation: Learning from the Experiences of Others**

*19 January 2012, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk*

Organised under the auspices of the CroSPiN initiative, this half-day technical workshop was attended by over 30 delegates from central government, local authorities and academics interested in the application of models of cooperation to address common opportunities in cross-border cooperation. Three senior practitioners from local agencies and authorities in Massachusetts, Spain and the Irish border region presented cases that illustrated how inter-jurisdictional cooperation agreements can be applied to different issues including: river-basin management in Massachusetts and securing cooperation and consensus across forty-three communities; how bilateral and multi-lateral associations of local authorities

in Spain – known as mancomunidades – cooperate to deliver services within functional territories; and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between neighbouring councils in the Irish border region that commits them to collaborating in areas such as emergency planning, tourism and recreation, and sustainable economic growth.

### **Planning and Local Government on the Island of Ireland**

*30 September 2011, Dundalk*

Organised in association with Cooperation Ireland and Queen's University Belfast, this well-attended seminar drew over 100 delegates from Ireland and Northern Ireland. The emphasis of this event was threefold: looking at the growing territorial agenda and the opportunities this creates for enhanced cross-border cooperation across the island of Ireland as demonstrated by the experiences of others in Europe; focusing on the potential role of elected members in the planning and governance processes of each jurisdiction on the island of Ireland; and considering the role of planners and councillors in decision-making and the extent to which evidence should lie at the heart of decision-making. Delegates commented on the importance of sharing experiences, which was further noted in the contributions from both jurisdictions regarding the impact of new planning legislation and the reform of public administration in Northern Ireland.

### **Land Banking and Housing Development: The (New) Role of the Planning System**

*28 April 2011, NUI Maynooth*

A jointly hosted NIRSA-ICLRD-Border Regional Authority event, this one-day roundtable discussion focused on *Land Banking and Housing Development: The (New) Role of the Planning System*. Speakers and contributors considered the state of housing development and the potential of land banking across the island of Ireland with respect to housing need, unfinished estates, the property market, the planning system and emerging programmes of both the Housing and Sustainable Communities Agency (HSCA) and the National Asset Management Agency (NAMA). It examined international experiences



## BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

of asset disposal and public land development, and explored possibilities and opportunities in the island of Ireland context. Delegates debated the role of local authorities, HSCA, NAMA, housing associations, private developers and other actors in addressing present issues and creating a more sustainable system of development that serves public and private interests. Attended by over 30 people, this event created a space in which key stakeholder agencies were provided with the opportunity to share and learn from each other.

### **Developing Core Strategies: Adopting a Bottom-up Approach**

*9 March 2011, Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone*

Jointly hosted by NIRSA-ICLRD-Border Regional Authority, this one-day event brought together over 120 local authority planners, elected representatives, private sector delegates and policy-makers to exchange experiences and lessons in adopting core strategies as required by new planning legislation in Ireland. The case of how Aberdeen City and Shire produced the Aberdeen Strategic Plan with the support of elected representatives highlighted the key role that elected councillors have in adopting longer-term planning policies. Other key issues considered during the day included data and evidenced-based decision-making, annual monitoring, density and appropriate scale development, and the need for integrated planning policy and practice.

### **The Functionality of Place: Determining and Mapping Functional Territories**

*16 June 2010, Armagh City Hotel*

Funded by the Higher Education Authority, the ICLR D hosted a half-day workshop on the topic of functional territories. This workshop was organised as part of the ICLR D's ongoing commitment to presenting cutting-edge research into issues of all-island spatial planning and regional development, and AIRO's long-term objective of providing data-users in both policy and practice with an open source 'hub' for spatial data analysis and mapping. Together with ICLR D colleagues, the 50 participants from central and local government departments and cross-border organisations discussed how the functional

territories research can be used by planners and policy-makers in their own work. The workshop also considered the issue of data availability and the need for more accessible and relevant datasets to support evidenced-informed planning and the identification of functional territories that can, for example, lead to maintaining or improving the delivery of services.

### **Evidence-Informed Planning: Making Information Accessible to Build Inter-Jurisdictional Cooperation**

*21 January 2010, Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh*

Organised under the auspices of the CroSPlaN initiative, this half-day technical workshop was attended by 40 people from both the public and private sectors with an interest in evidence-based policy and practice. Best practices from Boston were presented to demonstrate how the Boston Foundation and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council use data and outreach events to shape regional change. The presentations from Boston highlighted the role of various technologies (3D visualisations, highly interactive web visualisations and scenario modelling) in helping stakeholders involved in spatial planning processes better understand the impacts and tradeoffs of development decisions. The discussions concluded that a challenge in the Irish context, both North and South, is to make data and evidence on spatial planning available in a format that is accessible to a wide range of users.

### **An Introduction to Smart Growth**

*22 January 2009, Radisson Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal*

This half-day event kick-started a debate on the inter-relationship between spatial planning, economic development and the 'common good', both at a regional and local level. Attended by over 30 delegates including central government representatives from the island of Ireland and the U.K., local government officials, academics and community activists, this seminar considered the experience of 'Smart Growth' in the State of Maryland and catalytic urban development initiatives



## BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland



*(L to R) Professor Greg Lloyd, Ulster University, Dr. Eoin Magennis, InterTradeIreland, Mr. Seamus Neely, Donegal County Council and Ms. Caroline Brady, Border Regional Authority discussing the Border Development Zone (BDZ) concept as part of the annual ICLR/CCBS Annual Conference in the Cavan Crystal Hotel in January 2014.*

from Virginia – and the relevance of these initiatives to the Irish context. The programmes from Maryland and Virginia were presented by Prof. Gerrit-Jan Knapp, Executive Director, National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education; and Prof. Judith Meaney, Adjunct Professor and Director Real Estate Development Concentration, The Catholic University of America, Washington.

### **Supporting Evidence-Based Spatial Planning and Analysis in Ireland: Towards the Development of All-Island Spatial Databases**

*15 February 2007 in NUI Maynooth; and 20 June 2007 in University of Ulster*

The Regional Studies Association (RSA) together with the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis, the National Centre for Geocomputation, and the ICLR/CCBS hosted two workshops during 2007 on the importance

of all-island datasets on key thematic issues in spatial development. The workshops addressed a number of key issues, namely:

- Identifying existing common datasets for the island of Ireland;
- Building on what already exists and considering the type, scale and form of future key all-island datasets; and
- Agreeing on a list of indicators to assist in good quality analysis of evidence-based planning and policy, and the roll-out of a planning research programme.

These workshops were open to those with an interest in spatial analysis and planning data, in particular policy-makers, representatives from regional and local government, state agencies, planning consultancies, and academics.



## BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

### Exploring the Economic and Social Implications of the National Spatial Strategy

15 April 2005, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

The seminar was organised jointly by the Athlone Institute of Technology and the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. The objective of this event was to present and discuss spatial strategies from European, national, regional and local perspectives; with particular reference to economic and social aspects.

### OUTREACH

#### Irish Central Border Region (2011-2015)

The ICLRD has been closely involved in providing guidance to the Irish Central Border Area Network's (ICBAN's) cross-border spatial planning activities. The Central Border Region Spatial Planning Initiative, which has been partly financed by the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme and is worth over £1.5 million, is a drive by ICBAN to give the region distinctiveness, translating key national plans into local and regional actions. Through a suite of projects, the Spatial Planning Initiative is developing the necessary skills and capacity of its constituent Councils to enable them to engage positively and progressively with central government, North and South. The ICLRD provided technical assistance during the setup period on how the work programme should be shaped and managed to achieve the aims and objectives of the Initiative while also promoting collaborative activity and skill transfer amongst council and community groupings. The ICLRD has been an active member of the project's Spatial Planning Action Steering Group and, in late 2012, the ICLRD was commissioned by ICBAN to continue in its role as an external advisor to support the programme.

In January 2015, in support of the Spatial Planning Initiative, ICBAN contracted the ICLRD to provide external engagement support in the form of a study, specifically focusing on revitalising border towns and villages in the central border area. Recognising the increasing economic pressures facing the region as a whole following the economic downturn, this study was delivered as follows:

- The preparation of a interim briefing paper, which based on interviews with key stakeholder agencies in the region, would consider the challenges facing the region as a whole, the initiatives that have worked well in the past to address economic and social challenges and the need for a new partnership approach; and
- The preparation of a final position paper, incl. recommendations on next steps for both ICBAN and its constituent councils.

Finalised in November 2015, the Position Paper highlights a number of key areas where action is required to support rural revitalisation in the region. These include actions relating to business growth and development, access to services, connectivity, redressing community deficits, and meeting the needs of an ageing population.

#### North West Gateway Initiative (2011-2015)

Following the ICLRD 2011 training programme in the North West, the Centre continued to provide assistance in 2012 to local councils and the North West Partnership Board (NWPB) to consolidate initiatives supporting strategic cooperation in the NW Gateway. Activities included:

- Undertaking reviews of respective local policy documents such as the *Donegal County Development Plan* and the *One Plan* for Derry-Londonderry to identify common areas and strategic projects/initiatives for future cooperation;
- Supporting the NWPB in their preparations for meeting with, and presenting to, the NSMC and senior officials from those government departments involved in the NW Gateway Initiative in April 2012; and
- Engaging with key stakeholders in the North West and central government departments in both jurisdictions leading to a recommendation to develop an Action Plan to strengthen the linkages between the North West Gateway Initiatives, and the priorities and programmes for government (including the revised RDS & NSS, and the forthcoming *Cooperative Framework for Spatial Planning*).



The ICLRD's sister organisation, AIRO, also provides advice to the region regarding evidence-based planning; including sitting on the steering committee for the Northwest Region Cross-Border Group SPACEial data capture project.

In support of the work of the North West Partnership Forum (previously known as the North West Partnership Board), the ICLRD secured funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 'Reconciliation Fund' to develop an action plan to progress the development of the region. Using a multi-disciplinary collaborative model, the Action plan focuses on the key growth areas of tourism, renewables and the green economy, health innovation and well-being, and culture and the creative industries. The Reconciliation Fund grant, totalling €25,000, covered the period June 2013 to May 2014. The resulting Action Plan, *Building a Cross-Border, Cross-Sectoral Agenda: The North West Partnership Forum Action Plan* considers the value added to be gained by linking strategic local priorities with central government programmes and spatial strategies (including the North West Gateway Initiative).

The period February to September 2015 saw the ICLRD working with both Councils in the North West – Derry City and Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council – to review and consolidate a new partnership mechanism, and associated working arrangements. These new arrangements facilitate the region (the Councils) to respond in a coordinated and flexible way to both internal and external opportunities for development and investment. A key output, the Regional Prospectus, is being circulated to all relevant Government Ministers and their Special Advisors / General Secretaries for their perusal and ratification. New operational structures have been co-designed by the ICLRD, the Councils and senior representatives from central Government in both jurisdictions; with these structures responsible for delivering on the prospectus.

The ICLRD continues to work with the Councils to support the initiation and operationalisation of the new structures identified in the Regional Prospectus; and in building and sustaining the momentum required for the regional process to take effect.

### **Armagh-Monaghan Programme: Development of an Enabling Agreement between Councils (2014/2015)**

The cross-border councils of Monaghan County Council and Armagh City and District Council contracted the ICLRD to aid them in developing an enabling agreement, such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), to strengthen cooperation between these two councils. In April 2014, it was agreed that this programme of work would be carried out in three phases:

- Phase 1: The identification and assessment of both past and current areas of cooperation so as to help to identify potential areas of focus/interest for an enabling agreement; and a review and assessment of other cross-border dynamics that could identify areas of functional cooperation and shared assets; for example landscapes, tourism or cultural products, economic cooperation, community linkages and infrastructure that is / could shape interaction among the Councils.
- Phase 2: The identification of one or more scenarios for cooperation in the future whilst, in parallel, reviewing current models of cooperation (such as an MOU), and offer suggestions as to their potential application as an enabling agreement.
- Phase 3: Drafting the enabling agreement and any accompanying documents. Together, these will identify and outline the focus of key activities based on preferred scenario(s) for cooperation; with a particular focus being placed on the first year of activities.

This work programme was completed in March 2015

### **Framework for Cooperation: Spatial Strategies for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland (2008-2013)**

The ICLRD actively advocated for, and supported the development and publication of, this important framework for cooperation in spatial strategies that was approved by the Northern Ireland Executive in June 2013. Indeed, it was at an ICLRD Executive Training Programme in October 2013 that the Framework was officially launched. This innovative approach to strategic development is the first such spatial planning framework on the island of Ireland, and seeks to



influence strategic issues of economic competitiveness, place making, environmental quality, and evidence-based decision making. The Framework for Co-operation, first introduced by ICLRD in a 2006 study sponsored by InterTradeIreland, will be particularly helpful in light of new local government reform policies and the bringing together of local authorities, cross-border bodies and the regional networks in the Irish border region who share common challenges and opportunities.

### **Truagh-Aughnacloy Community Planning (2010-2012)**

Between 2010-2012, the ICLRD provided technical assistance to a number of community development associations along the North Monaghan / South Tyrone border. The development associations from Truagh, Aughnacloy, Aghaloo, the Bawn, Loughans, Clara and Carrickroe are working together on a community business and social economy plan. This was the first time that these neighbouring associations formally worked together.

The groups worked with a consultant on social enterprise development. Initial activities included a household perceptions study of 150 households, a survey of 63 businesses, community-based meetings with civil society and public sector bodies on both sides of the Border and focus groups with younger and older residents. Taking a longer-term perspective, the consultation process has led to the development of a North Monaghan Development Framework study based on a vision of the sub-region as an economically sustainable and outward looking Border catchment area where people and communities are empowered to achieve their best.

The next phase of the groups' work was to examine the feasibility of:

- A Blackwater Valley branded Business Development and Marketing Initiative;
- An Independent Living Project providing support services to lone dwellers and older people, in addition to community-based employment opportunities, especially for women; and
- The Implementation of a Youth Employment, Entrepreneurship and Leadership Programme.

In order to consult with residents on both sides of the border and to gain insights into the types of social economy and community development activities that would be favoured locally, young people from Truagh and the surrounding communities came together in 2012 and undertook a household survey. The ICLRD provided technical support to enable them to formulate a survey questionnaire, and to process the results. The response rate throughout the area was very positive and a wealth of suggestions were advanced, which now need to be progressed. In the meantime, the youth have assumed leadership roles within their own communities, and are bringing a fresh vitality and energy to local development and cross-border cooperation.

### **Harvard Joint Centre for Housing (2009)**

Within the housing sector on the island of Ireland, there was no systematic process or structure in 2009/2010 for examining and understanding the inter-jurisdictional implications of housing policies and markets. To explore potential means of building cooperation around housing indicators, the ICLRD facilitated academic exchanges for Justin Gleeson, Manager of AIRO, and Karen Keaveney, Lecturer at Queens University Belfast to the Harvard Joint Center for Housing and the Institute for International Urban Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Their meetings and research in Boston, and subsequent meetings with senior officials in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in Dublin, has led to increased cooperation on the identification of common data which can be incorporated into an accessible web-based data base available on the AIRO website. A key recommendation from these exchange visits was the need to publish an annual report on key housing trends, issues and markets for the island of Ireland.

### **Reconstruction and Resettlement Council, Cyprus (2008)**

In October 2008, John Driscoll joined a delegation from the island of Ireland that presented at a conference on 'Integrating Transport in a Reunified Cyprus' in Nicosia, Cyprus, the 'last divided capital in Europe'. The conference was organised by the Reconstruction and Resettlement Council (RRC) of Cyprus and Kate Burns (formerly of ICBAN) who was working with the RRC



## BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland



(L to R) Lead authors, Mr. Niall Cussen, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and Mr. Tom Reid, Department for Regional Development, launching the Framework for Cooperation: Spatial Strategies for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland at a CroSPlaN II executive training session in the Glencarn Hotel, Castleblayney in October 2013.

at the time on the lessons that could be learned from cross-border development on the island of Ireland to promote peace and reconciliation in Cyprus between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities. This event was the beginning of an ongoing discussion between the ICLRD and RRC. In July 2009, for example, a two-person delegation from the RRC met with John and Andy Pollak to discuss if there are potential areas where ICLRD and the Centre for Cross Border Studies could assist the Council in Cyprus.

### BRIEFING PAPER SERIES

In November 2009, the ICLRD launched its Briefing Paper Series. This involves the publication of short, timely articles that explore how various forms of planning, enacted at different spatial scales, can contribute to better collaboration on the pressing issues facing both Ireland and Northern Ireland. By considering both jurisdictions on the island and the potential synergies and

efficiencies that can be realised through cooperation, the series aims to provide a more rounded view than considering each jurisdiction in isolation. Articles available to date include:

- *Small Island: Big Marine Challenges Ahead for the Blue Economy* by Dr. Heather Ritchie, University of Ulster (December 2013).
- *Implementation of River Basin Management Plans: Current Issues and Future Needs* by Dr. Ainhoa González Del Campo, Researcher, NIRSA, NUI Maynooth, John Driscoll, Director, International Centre for Local and Regional Development, and Pádraig Maguire, Regional Planner, Border Regional Authority (December 2012).
- *Biomass Resources in the Island of Ireland* by Michael Doran, Executive Director of Action Renewables (September 2012);
- *Reflections on the Boom: A Time for Reform* by Dr. Patricia O'Hara, Chairperson of the National Statistics



## BORDERLANDS

The Journal of Spatial Planning in Ireland

Board and Adjunct Professor at the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), NUI Maynooth (August 2011);

- *Innovation: The Challenge of Building an Adaptive and Innovative Society* by Dr. James Cunningham, Director of the Centre for Innovation and Structural Change (CISC) and Senior Lecturer at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics, NUI Galway (May 2011);
- *Doing More with Less: A Business Perspective* by Feargal McCormack, FPM Chartered Accountants (January 2011);
- *Recovery Scenarios for the Two Irish Economies* by Prof. John FitzGerald, The Economic and Social Research Institute (July 2010);
- *Evidence-Informed Spatial Planning: A Metro Boston Perspective* by Holly St Clair, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), Boston (May 2010);
- *ESPON – A New Practical European Research Agenda for Territorial Development* by Cliff Hague, ESPON Contact Point UK and Brendan Bartley, ESPON Contact Point Republic of Ireland (Feb. 2010);
- *The Conditions Necessary for Gateway Development and The Role of Smaller Gateways in Economic Development* by Prof. Jim Walsh, NUI Maynooth and Cormac Walsh, Urban Institute, University College Dublin (Jan, 2010);
- *Linking Spatial Planning with Public Investment: Perspectives from the island of Ireland* by David Counsell, Planner & Prof. Greg Lloyd, University of Ulster (Dec. 2009);
- *Good Planning Key to Future Success* by Prof. Rob Kitchin, NUI Maynooth & Prof. Alastair Adair, University of Ulster (Nov. 2009).

**Further articles will be added on a regular basis.**