

# NEWRY-DUNDALK TWIN CITY: A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## ICLRD Conference in collaboration with InterTradeIreland

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Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
in  
Armagh City Hotel



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Promoting best practices in spatial planning and economic development.

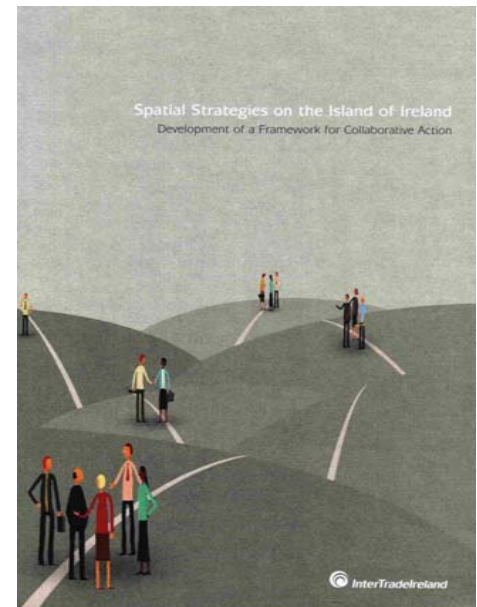
# Contextual Background to Research

New era based on a joined up approach to spatial planning

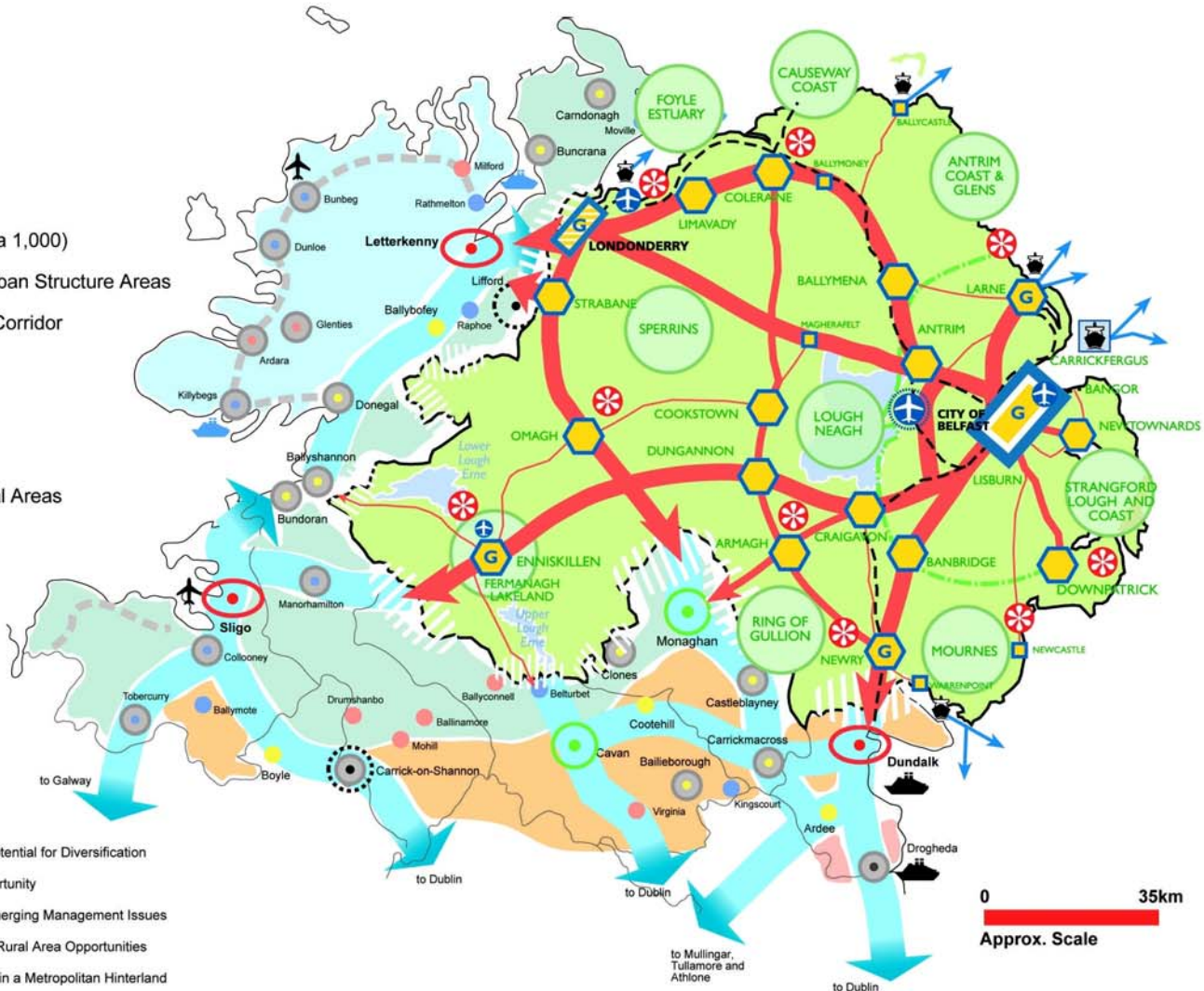
- Delivering strategic infrastructure investment
- Pooling of resources for mutual gain
- Accelerating development of key transport corridors
- Implementing strategic projects

Towards a framework of collaboration in spatial planning

ICLRD Report (*Inter TradeIreland*, 2006)



- Gateway
- Hub
- County Town
- <5,000 Town
- 1,500 - 5,000 Town
- Urban Centres (circa 1,000)
- Centres in Weak Urban Structure Areas
- National Transport Corridor
- Airport
- Transit Port
- Major Fishing Port
- Access to Peripheral Areas
- Rural Areas with Strong Potential for Diversification
- Urban Strengthening Opportunity
- Diversifying Areas — Emerging Management Issues
- Village Strengthening and Rural Area Opportunities
- Strategic Rural Assets within a Metropolitan Hinterland



- Centres with Strategic Role for Employment and Services**
- Major Regional Cities**
  - Belfast Metropolitan Area
  - Londonderry-City of the North West
- The Towns**
  - Main Hubs
  - Local Hubs
- Rural Community Potential**
- Regional Gateways**
  - International/ European Port
  - Ports
  - Belfast International Airport
  - Airports
  - Major Inter-Regional Gateway Role
  - Trans-Regional Development Linkages and Opportunities
- Regional Strategic Transport Network**
  - Key Transport Corridors
  - Link Corridors
  - Trunk Roads
  - Railways
- Strategic Natural Resource**
- Major Tourism Development Opportunity**
- Belfast Metropolitan Area Green Belt**

0 35km  
Approx. Scale



FIGURE 3- Infrastructure Plans: Current, Committed & Indicative Roads to 2014

NDP 2007 – 2013...

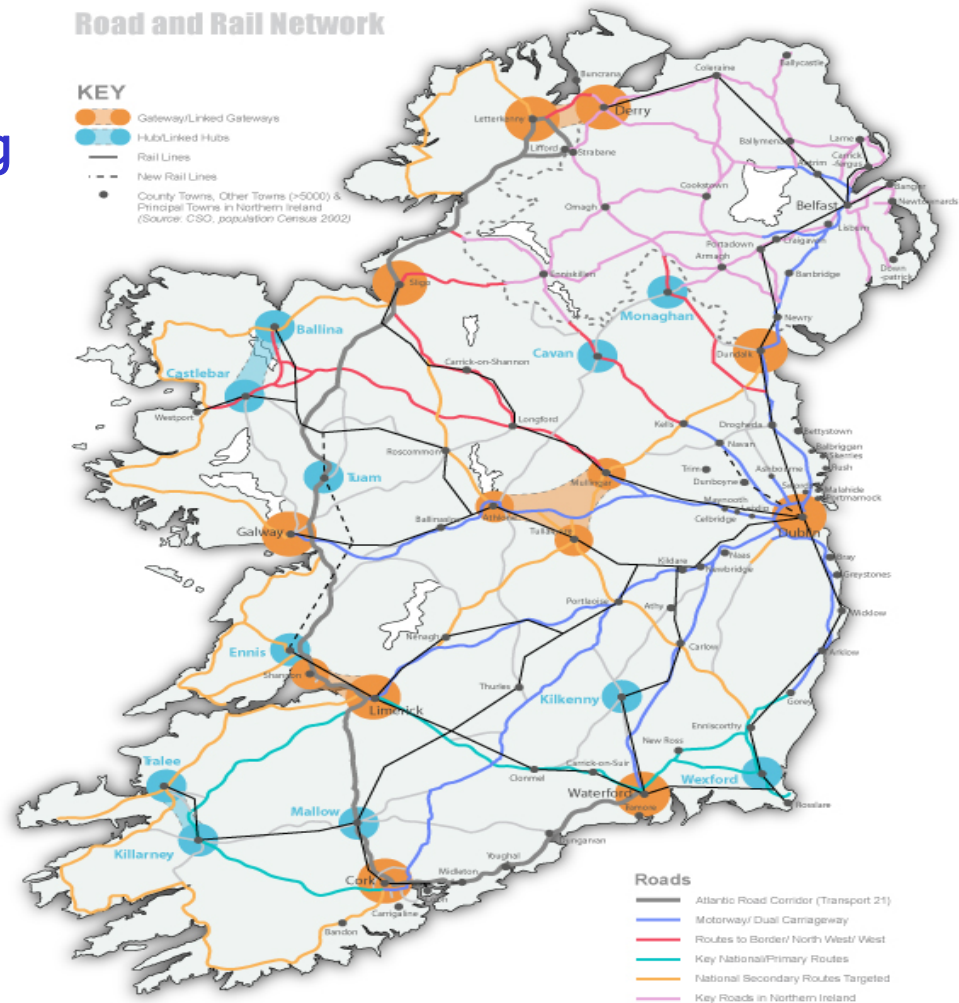
Collaboration on spatial planning & infrastructure

Strengthening economic competitiveness

Balanced regional development

Investing in key cross border projects

- Joint implementation
- Value for money
- Economies of scale



# Investment Priorities



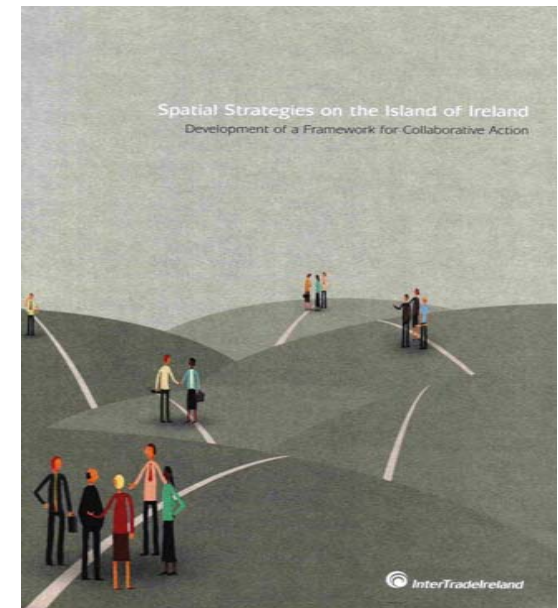
**Building a Better Future, Investment Strategy 2008-2018**



# Aim of the ICLRD Research

To adopt a practical orientated approach

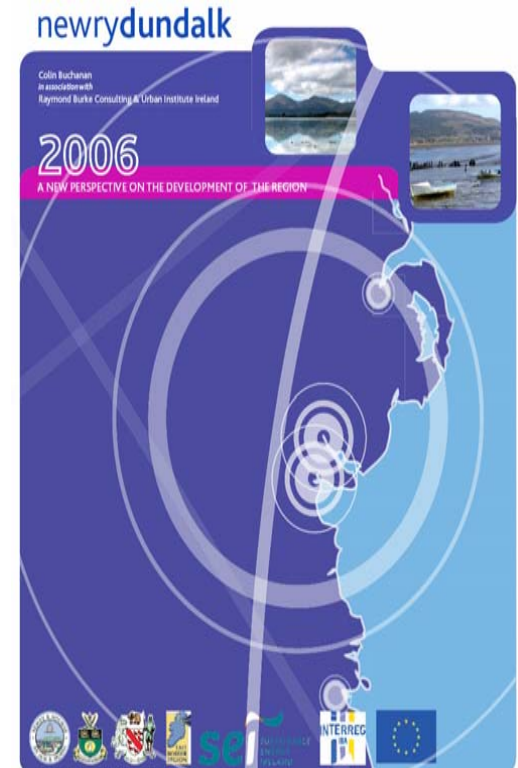
- Building upon the ICLRD report
- Operationalising collaborative framework in Newry-Dundalk Sub-Region
- Facilitating implementation of a non-statutory integrated spatial planning and development framework
- Delivering economic competitiveness
- Facilitating infrastructure connectivity
- Attracting investment and services
- Promoting sustainable technologies
- Capitalising on economic development



# Aim of the ICLRD Research

## ICLRD research acting as a catalyst

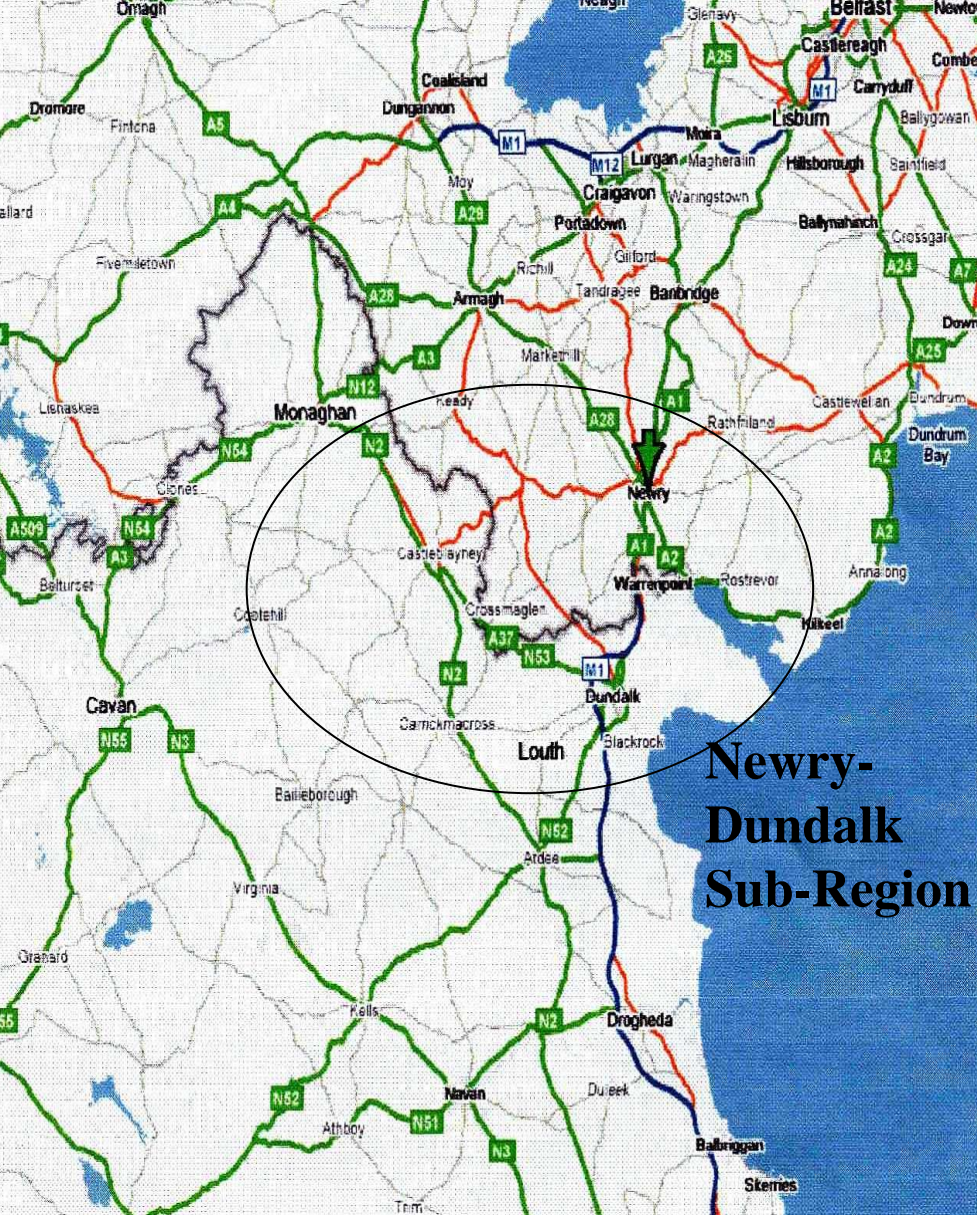
- Building on the Twin-City concept
- Shaping, promoting, developing the Twin-City
- Focusing on practical benefits of cooperation
- Developing mutually supportive complementarities
- Moving beyond concept to implementation





# Newry-Dundalk Platforms for Change

- Directing Growth
- Doing Business
- Equipping Communities
- Managing the Resource
- Sustainable Energy
- Making it Happen
- Stakeholder Engagement





# Research Methodology

Assessment of the sub-region, key policy issues, development trends, drivers, socio-economic characteristics

Conducting structured discussions with the key stakeholders on key issues

Identification and assessment of key strategic projects

Focus groups working with key stakeholder

Possible coordination and delivery vehicles for implementation

Potential funding sources to implement projects/initiatives



# Research: Phase 1

Review of policy documents relating to the sub-region

Assessment of socio-economic profile of sub-region

Conducted structured discussions with 95+ key stakeholders

- Central government departments & agencies
- Local government
- Sub-region networks
- Business

Secured consensus on key issues and complementarities

Identified key strategic projects yielding mutual benefit



# Key Projects

## Key criteria for assessing sustainable infrastructure projects\*

- Create strategic relationship to RDS/NSS at sub-regional level
- Improve economic competitiveness
- Address social well being, quality of life, environment quality attributes
- Unify and link with environmental sustainability outcomes
- Align with the guidelines of funding programmes
- Secure complementarity and buy-in from stakeholders
- Reflect potential to be implemented based on delivery mechanisms
- Contribute to the development potential/holistic vision set for sub-region

\* ITI Report, 2006



# Project Typology

## Key Strategic Cross Border Projects

1. Sustainable Energy Communities based on Dundalk 2020
2. Integrated Environmental Management based on a Geopark
3. Newry-Dundalk International Services Zone
4. Regeneration and place marketing

Cross cutting impacts

Key unifying themes = Sustainable Energy and Infrastructure Connectivity



# Research: Phase 2

Conducting one or more focus groups meetings on each project

Establishing the respective delivery vehicle for each project

Securing a balanced approach by engaging with key decision makers

- local, regional and central levels of government
- private sector/business and community sectors

Focusing on potential for effective leadership and governance

Placing an emphasis on implementation, delivery and funding

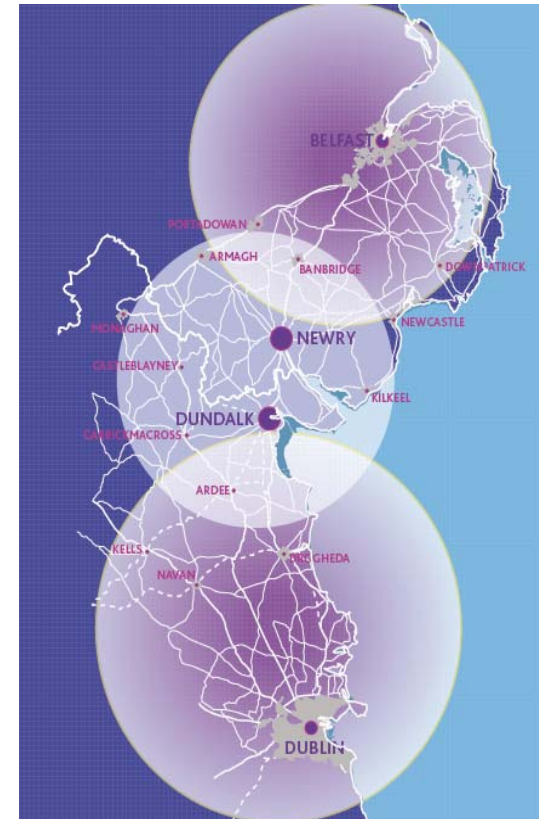


# Research: Phase 2

Focus group discussions for the respective projects

- What is the structure of the delivery vehicle?
- What is the composition of the key stakeholders?
- Who will drive the implementation?
- How will this work in practice?
- How will it be funded?

Work in progress



# Project 1

## Sustainable Energy Communities based on Dundalk 2020



Building a twin-city sustainable energy community with the public and private sectors

Supported by a third level centre of excellence in sustainable energy

Position Dundalk and Newry as island exemplars.

- Worked closely with the Dundalk 2020 team
- Meetings with other stakeholders
- Discussion of findings: Declan Mealey



# Project 2

## Integrated Environmental Management based on a Geopark



Exploring the concept of a European Geo-Park linked to the outstanding geological features of the Mournes, Cooley, Slieve Gullion and Carlingford Lough.

Highlighting the unique historical, social and cultural resources of the Newry/Dundalk region.



Newry-Dundalk Officer Working Group Meetings with other stakeholders  
Discussion of findings: Martin Carey



# Project 3

## Newry-Dundalk International Services Zone



Marketing the Newry/Dundalk region as centre for internationally tradable service operations

Based on prime location and cost competitiveness at the centre of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor.

Focus group meeting of 20 stakeholders  
Representatives from the IDA and INI  
Discussion of findings: Chris van Egeraat



# Project 4

## Regeneration and place marketing



A town centre regeneration strategy for both Newry and Dundalk

Promotes the regional offering as a place where people want to visit, settle and work.

Research into delivery mechanism is in early stages

Preliminary meetings

- Dundalk Town Council Economic Group
- Newry & Mourne District Council Economic Development Team



# Key Projects

3 ten minute presentations

- Project 1: Declan Mealey
- Project 2: Martin Carey
- Project 3: Chris van Egeraat

Focus on the delivery mechanisms

