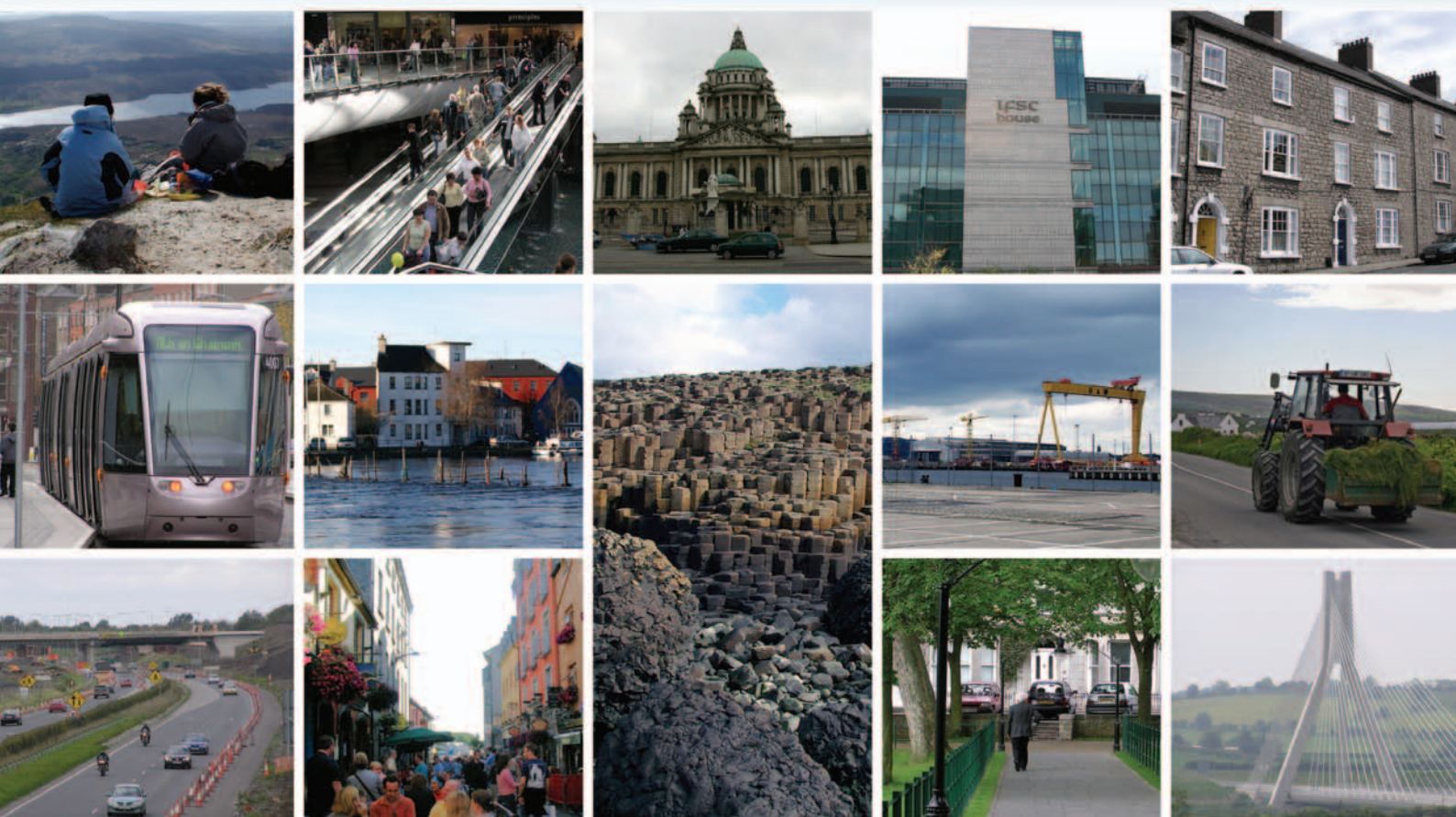


IMPLEMENTING A FRAMEWORK FOR COLLABORATIVE ACTION

Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland



OPENED BY

Mr Dick Roche TD

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin

Mr Gerry McGinn

Permanent Secretary, Department for Regional Development, Belfast

MAIN SPEAKERS

Professor Jim Berry University of Ulster

Mr Brendan Bartley National University of Ireland Maynooth

Mr Mike Thompson Department for Regional Development, Belfast

Mr Niall Cussen Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin

Canal Court Hotel, Newry 9 November 2006

IMPLEMENTING A FRAMEWORK

PROGRAMME

Thursday 9th November

Mardyke Suite, Canal Court Hotel, Newry

- 9.00 am *Registration and refreshments*
- 9.35 Welcome by **Councillor Michael Carr**, Mayor, Newry and Mourne District Council
- 9.45 **Introductory Session: Setting the Context for Collaboration**
Chair: Mr Feargal McCormack, Managing Partner, FPM Chartered Accountants, and Chairman, International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD)
Mr Dick Roche TD, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin
Mr Gerry McGinn, Permanent Secretary, Department for Regional Development, Belfast
- 10.30 **Plenary Session: Implementing a Collaborative Framework – Recommendations and Agenda for Action**
- 10.30 *Introduction and Contextual Perspective – Professor James Walsh*, Vice-President for Innovation and Strategic Initiatives, National University of Ireland Maynooth
- 10.45 *Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland: Development of Proposals for a Collaborative Approach: ICLRDR Report Findings and Recommendations – Professor Jim Berry*, ICLRDR and Professor in Urban Planning and Property Development, University of Ulster, and **Mr Brendan Bartley**, ICLRDR and Acting Director, National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), NUI Maynooth
- 11.15 *Refreshments*
- 11.30 *Proposed Frameworks for Action – Mr Mike Thompson*, Director, Regional Development Strategy, Department for Regional Development, Belfast, and **Mr Niall Cussen**, Senior Planning Adviser, Planning Inspectorate, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin
- 12.00 Questions and discussion
- 12.30 *Lunch*
- 1.30 Parallel afternoon sessions

Session 1: Promoting Economic Competitiveness through Cross-Border Spatial Strategies

- 1.30 **Chair: Mr Liam Nellis**, Chief Executive, InterTradeIreland
- 1.40 *Financier's Perspective on Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Provision – Mr Henry Elvin*, Head of Corporate and Property Finance, Ulster Bank
- 2.00 *Developer's Perspective on Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Provision – Dr Gerard O'Hare*, Managing Director, Parker Green International
- 2.20 *Comments from panellists: Mr Sean Ó Laoire*, Partner, Murray Ó Laoire Architects

Mr William Poole, Chief Executive, IBEC/CBI Joint Business Council

Mr Michael D'Arcy, Principal, D'Arcy Smyth and Associates

2.50 Questions to speakers

Session 2: Implementing Cross-Border Spatial Planning

- 1.30 **Chair: Dr Peter Smyth**, Former Joint Secretary, North/South Ministerial Council
- 1.40 *Managing Growth through Spatial Planning: Learning from International Experience – Mr John Driscoll*, Director, International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) and Vice-President, Institute for International Urban Development, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1.55 *The Role of Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière in Documenting and Supporting Cross-Border Initiatives in France – Ms Silvia Keckeis*, Chargée de Mission Réseau, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière
- 2.10 *Institutional Perspective – Mr Michael McLoone*, County Manager, Donegal County Council
- 2.25 *Developing the Ulster-Connaught Corridor: A Spatial Planning Perspective – Dr Chris Boomer*, Head of Development Plans, Western Divisional Planning Office, Omagh
- 2.40 *All-Island and Cross-Border Data – Professor Rob Kitchin*, ICLRDR and Director, National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), NUI Maynooth
- 2.55 Questions to speakers
- 3.20 *Refreshments*
- 3.30 **Closing Session: Setting Priorities for Implementing the Collaborative Framework and Research Agenda**
Chair: Professor Alastair Adair, ICLRDR and Head of School of the Built Environment, University of Ulster
- 4.15 Reports of chairs and comments from delegates
Close

SPEAKERS AND CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSONS



Mr Dick Roche TD was appointed Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in September 2004, having previously served as Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for European Affairs. He represented the Government of Ireland on the Convention on the Future of Europe and in 2005 was responsible for coordinating Ireland's sixth Presidency of the European Union. Mr Roche was first elected to the Dáil for the Wicklow constituency in 1987. He was Chairman of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on State-Sponsored Bodies in 1989-1992 and Chairman of the

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Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Strategic Management Initiative in 1997-2002. A former university lecturer in public administration, he has published many articles on public administration in Ireland.



Mr Gerry McGinn has been Permanent Secretary of the Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development since January 2006. He was Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education between 2001 and 2006. Before that he had a distinguished career in banking. Having been employed by National Westminster Bank in London and the Investment Bank of Ireland in Dublin, he returned to Northern Ireland as Director of the Investment Bank of Ireland there. He was appointed Chief Executive, Corporate and International Banking, Bank of Ireland, in 1990; Chief Executive, Bank of Ireland, in 1994 and Chief Executive of Bank of Ireland, Banking UK, in 1999. He is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast and the executive programme of Columbia Business School in New York.



Professor James Walsh is Vice-President for Innovation and Strategic Initiatives at National University of Ireland Maynooth, where he was Head of the Department of Geography from 1995 to 2005. A founding member of the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) and the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD), he has published extensively on topics related to regional and rural development and spatial planning. He has been a member of several national fora including the National Economic and Social Council. He was principal academic advisor for the Irish National Spatial Strategy and he has also been Ireland's representative on the European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON).



Professor Jim Berry is Professor of Urban Planning and Property Development in the School of the Built Environment at the University of Ulster. As a chartered surveyor and chartered town planner, he has researched widely into issues relating to urban development and regeneration, spatial and urban planning, global property markets, real estate financing/investment and housing markets. Professor Berry has been involved in major research contracts funded by government departments and agencies, research councils and the private sector. Analysis of planning and urban renewal strategies in property development and the investment market is a central theme of this research with particular implications for policy.



Mr Brendan Bartley lectures in Urban Geography and Planning at the National University of Ireland Maynooth, where he is Acting Director of the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) and the University's ICLR D Programme Director. He holds professional qualifications in town

planning and transportation planning, and worked as a professional planner in both the public and private sectors prior to joining NUI Maynooth in 1994. He has been involved over the past 15 years in a number of European collaborative urban research networks in the connected areas of spatial planning, governance and urban regeneration.



Mr Mike Thompson is the Director in the Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development with responsibility for implementing the Regional Development Strategy. Previously he was the Director of the Belfast Regeneration Office in the Department for Social Development. In that capacity he was responsible for developing the URBAN II programme in North Belfast, and the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme in Belfast; managing the city centre Victoria Square project, and representing the Department on the Laganside Corporation Board. Prior to that he was the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Partnership Board, responsible for £81m of EU Peace 1 funding through 26 District Partnerships. His early civil service career was as an economist working in the Department of Finance and Personnel and Department of the Environment.



Mr Niall Cussen is a Senior Planning Adviser with the Spatial Planning Section and Heritage and Planning Division of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in Dublin. Since January 2000 he has been a key member of the team that prepared the National Spatial Strategy, and since its launch in November 2002 has been closely involved in its implementation. He holds a UCD Masters degree in Regional and Urban Planning, and is a former president of the Irish Planning Institute. Mr Cussen has worked as a planner for almost 20 years in a broad range of urban and rural contexts in both forward planning and development management. This experience has included working for local authorities in Clare, Meath and Dublin City, as well as for An Bord Pleanála.



Mr Henry Elvin started his career as an economist with the Department of Finance and Personnel. He subsequently spent time with the Department of the Environment where he worked on projects such as the Castlecourt development in Belfast. He moved on to work for the Industrial Development Board before joining the Ulster Bank in 1989. As Head of Corporate and Property Finance, he has overseen recent major deals with Maybin, Fosse Park and Golden Wonder.



Dr Gerard O'Hare, born in Newry, is one of Northern Ireland's most successful property and business entrepreneurs, with a portfolio of developments across Ireland, the UK, Central Europe and the USA worth over £200 million. Under his guidance his family's construction business, the

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Carnbane House Group, became one of Ireland's leading property, investment and construction companies. He left Carnbane House to found and manage the investment and property business Parker Green. Now also pursuing a more independent role, among his investments in Ireland are the Quays Shopping and Leisure Centre in Newry and the Fairgreen Shopping Centre in Carlow. In 1991 he was involved in putting together the consortium, in association with Dunloe Ewart plc and the Baltimore-based firm EIDC, that won the bid for Belfast's Waterfront Lanyon Place. In 1997 Mr O'Hare was instrumental in bringing together the highly successful local town centre partnership for Newry, and in 2001-2003 he served as President of the newly merged Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade. He is a visiting Professor at the University of Ulster's School of the Built Environment, and in April 2006 was appointed Chairman of the University of Ulster Foundation.



Mr Sean Ó Laoire is a founding Director of Murray Ó Laoire Architects. Educated at UCD and the University of California, he combines architecture with a specialism in urban design/planning, and has worked and studied in England, Italy and the US. His practice is today one of the largest in Ireland and a major player in Europe. Mr Ó Laoire has been responsible for a number of award winning architectural projects and testimonials including the Triennial Gold Medal from the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland in 1995.



Mr William Poole is Chief Executive of the IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council (JBC). The JBC was established in 1991 with the mission of sustaining and developing economic co-operation on the island of Ireland and advancing international competitiveness. JBC programmes have included building North-South trade and business development and promoting a globally competitive business environment on the island of Ireland in areas like transportation and supply chain, telecommunications, energy, business-education linkages, waste management and the cross-border mobility of labour.



Mr Michael D'Arcy has been providing independent, professional strategic analysis, advice and facilitation on the 'island economy' and North-South economic cooperation to both the public and private sectors since the early 1990s. He is the joint editor, with Tim Dickson, of the seminal 1995 study *Border Crossings: Developing Ireland's Island Economy*. Other research and advisory work has included projects for the Department of Foreign Affairs; the North/South Ministerial Council Joint Secretariat, InterTradeIreland, the Economic and Social Research Institute, the Centre for Cross Border Studies, Co-operation Ireland and the University of Ulster. He is also the Joint Facilitator of the North/South Roundtable Group.



Mr John Driscoll is the Director of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD), a newly established applied research centre based in Armagh which is the outcome of a North-South-US partnership between universities and research centres involved in spatial planning and related subjects. He is a Vice-President of the Institute for International Urban Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he is engaged in research, teaching and consultancy activities that focus on regional and city development strategies. He has worked with central and local authorities and community groups in Albania, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Poland and Romania, and has been involved in applied field research and professional training and consulting assignments in Egypt, Jordan, France, South Africa, and the United States. From 1989 to 2005, he was a lecturer in Urban Planning at the Center for Urban Development Studies at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.



Ms Silvia Keckeis is Project Officer with Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) in Paris, a French government founded organisation which facilitates the implementation of local cross-border projects between France and mainly neighbouring countries. She is responsible for network management, relations with national and EU institutions, and development of European contacts and cross-border co-operation projects. The MOT network has 44 members in the border regions in France and eight other countries, seven of them in the EU, ranging from local authorities to large enterprises. Ms Keckeis has qualifications in European Studies, specialising in European regional policy, project management and network communication, and economics majoring in international management.



Mr Michael McLoone has been County Manager with Donegal County Council since 1994. Prior to this he spent six years as Chief Executive of Beaumont Hospital in Dublin to which he was seconded to set up arrangements for the running of the new hospital when it opened in 1987. He was Programme Manager, Community Care Services, with the Health Western Health Board for seven years, and Personnel Officer with the Midland Health Board for three years. Since 1997 he has been Chairman of Letterkenny Institute of Technology. He was a member of the Western Development Commission from 1996-1999 and Chairman of the Irish Blood Transfusion Board from 2001-2003. He was appointed as a member of the Health Service Executive in 2004. In 1998-1999 Mr McLoone chaired the Donegal Employment Initiative Taskforce which prepared a seven year development strategy – incorporating a strong cross-border dimension – to offset job losses in Fruit of the Loom and to help steer the economic regeneration of the county.



Dr Chris Boomer has been working in town planning for the last 20 years in Northern Ireland and England. He is currently Head of Development Plans for the Western Divisional Planning Office covering the border counties of Tyrone and Fermanagh. He represents the Planning Service on the Irish Central Border Area Network, and his principal tasks include the preparation of a development plan for West Tyrone.



Professor Rob Kitchin is Director of the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) and Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. He is an Executive Board Member of ICLRD. He is the Managing Editor of the journal, *Social and Cultural Geography*, and co-editor-in-chief of the International Encyclopedia of Human Geography. He has co-written 13 books including *Understanding Contemporary Ireland* (edited with Brendan Bartley, Pluto Press); *The Academic's Guide to Publishing* (2005); *Key Thinkers on Space and Place* (2004); *Radical Theory, Critical Praxis: Making a Difference Beyond the Academy?* (2004); *Thinking Geographically: Space, Theory and Contemporary Human Geography* (2002); and *Lost in Space: Geographies of Science Fiction* (2002).



Professor Alastair Adair holds the Chair in Property Investment and is Head of the School of the Built Environment at the University of Ulster. He has researched extensively into the dynamics of urban development and property market performance; financial aspects of development and investment appraisal; financing of urban regeneration, and the comparative study of the international valuation research agenda. Currently he is the Deputy Editor of the *Journal of Property Research* and is a member of the editorial board of three other international journals. He holds a PhD in Urban Development from the University of Reading. He is a Past President of the Irish Valuers and Auctioneers Institute and a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. He is a member of the Research Assessment Exercise Town and Country Planning Panel. He is an Executive Board member of ICLRD.



Mr Feargal McCormack is Managing Partner of FPM Accountants, located in Newry, Dundalk and Dungannon, and Chairman of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD). In 2005 FPM Accountants won the Accountancy Age UK Small Firm of the Year Award, after becoming in 2004 the first professional services firm to win the Northern Ireland SME Business of the Year Award. Mr McCormack is a member of the Board of InterTradeIreland, EquityNetwork and the Steering Group of the North/South Roundtable Group. He is a former

Chairman of the Ulster Society of Chartered Accountants and is a Council member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.



Mr Liam Nellis is Chief Executive Officer of InterTradeIreland in Newry. After finishing a law degree in London and an MSc from the University of Ulster, he joined the Northern Ireland Civil Service in 1973 and has been involved in many economic development issues including labour market, tourism and small business policy. In 1990 he was seconded to establish and head up NI-CO, the public sector marketing company working in the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe. In 1997 he joined the Industrial Development Board where he was Executive Director responsible for inward investment until he accepted a further secondment to set up and head the new North/South Trade and Business Development Body, now InterTradeIreland.



Dr Peter Smyth, before his retirement from the Northern Ireland Civil Service in October 2005, was the Northern Joint Secretary in the North/South Ministerial Council. In that capacity he became aware of the potential benefits of a collaborative approach to matters of common interest within the island of Ireland. Five years in Washington DC as Director of the Northern Ireland Bureau, preceded by a period in the Northern Ireland Office engaged in the political development process, may also have suggested the value of viewing domestic affairs in a wider perspective.

BACKGROUND TO THE CONFERENCE

Introduction

There are two spatial strategies on the island of Ireland – the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) for Ireland and the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) for Northern Ireland. Both these strategies have mutually interdependent characteristics: for example the potential of the Dublin-Belfast Corridor in the east and the Letterkenny-Derry/Londonderry Corridor in the north west. Co-operation is increasing but much of this is aimed at addressing historical infrastructure deficits. There is a sense that much more could be done to take both strategies forward, so as jointly to address the shared competitiveness challenges facing both Ireland and Northern Ireland in the context of the opportunities and threats presented by globalization.

The implementation of the policies contained in both strategies must also take account of the cycle of growth currently being experienced. The demographic trajectory for the island of Ireland indicates a population growth to almost seven million people within 15 years. This will present major challenges in terms of determining settlement distribution, employment location, managing mobility and providing appropriate service infrastructure.

A positive re-positioning and re-imaging of the island of Ireland is needed to harness the dynamic of change and to enable both jurisdictions to draw upon their individual and combined assets so that the competitiveness and welfare of the island, North and South, is maintained and enhanced. A step change is needed at the national, regional and local levels in both jurisdictions which involves collaborative action on spatial planning and infrastructure coordination.

Purpose of this Event

This conference will highlight major findings from the research report, ***Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland: Development of a Framework for Collaborative Action***, prepared by the International Centre for Local and Regional Development for InterTradeIreland. It will also present the current steps being taken towards meeting the request of the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference to prepare a new collaborative framework for the implementation of mutually interdependent aspects of the two spatial strategies. It is envisaged that the development of an all-island collaborative framework would:

- Inform future investment programmes;
- Maximise synergies between different aspects of the investment programmes;
- Promote regional competitiveness;
- Re-position and re-image the island as a globally innovative and competitive location.

The conference is designed as a one-day event that combines both plenary sessions and thematic workshops. Key issues to be explored include:

- Progressing regional and local spatial planning initiatives for key development areas identified in both spatial strategies;
- Developing an enhanced programme of highly strategic and targeted investments in key enabling aspects of both spatial strategies;
- Rolling out a programme of spatial planning research to further deepen understanding of development patterns, trends and their drivers on an all-island basis, including the development of compatible cross-border databases;
- Discussing the role of the business community/private sector in inter-jurisdictional development.

Key Questions

- How will the intent of the two spatial strategies enhance the economic competitiveness of the island to the benefit of all its inhabitants?
- In the short- to medium-term, what is the best way to begin generating comparable and compatible datasets?
- Given the centralised nature of the planning systems in both jurisdictions, what role can local government and other key stakeholders play in the preparation and implementation of a collaborative framework?
- Developing a collaborative framework would necessitate the alignment of spatial planning policies in both parts of the island. What are the main opportunities and challenges here?
- What are the best methods of linking joined-up planning initiatives to financing opportunities and public investment programmes in key infrastructure and services?

- How can spatial planning and business decision-making processes be more effectively aligned across the whole island?

Who Are We?

The International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD)

(ICLRD) is a new North-South-US partnership project to explore and expand the contribution that spatial planning and development of the physical, social and economic infrastructure can make to peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland and elsewhere. The ICLRDR has developed out of a unique collaboration between academics and spatial planning specialists from the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at National University of Ireland Maynooth, the School of the Built Environment at University of Ulster, Athlone Institute of Technology, the Centre for Cross Border Studies in Armagh, and the Institute of for International Urban Development in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Further information is available at www.iclrd.org.



InterTradeIreland, the Trade and Business Development



Body, is one of the six North/South bodies established under the 1998 Belfast Agreement. By building effective business relationships, it helps strengthen individual businesses and promotes the value of growth sectors to make the island of Ireland more competitive in a global economy. Its key strategic objective for the period 2005-2007 is to enhance the global competitiveness of the all-island economy to the mutual benefit of both jurisdictions. This is to be achieved through the creation of knowledge-intensive all-island trade and business development networks and the implementation of all-island trade and business development programmes. Further information is available at www.intertradeireland.com.

CONTACTS

International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD)

The Director of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) is John Driscoll and its Administrator is Mairéad Hughes. They can be contacted at the Centre for Cross Border Studies, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7EB

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