Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland
Framework for Collaboration

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The ICLRD

Dynamic and decentralised network
- cross-border, cross-campus, cross-disciplinary

Working together since 2003; Legally incorporated in 2006

An all-island platform
- independent, expert, joined-up research
- capacity building on spatial planning & local and regional development
- Work at three spatial scales: (1) EU-island of Ireland (2) Regional (3) Local

Build strategic planning capacity through:
- fundamental and applied research
- fostering collaboration among key stakeholders
- advising policy-makers and practitioners
- training public/private sector practitioners in best practice

Multi-year core funding and funding for specific projects

5 Partner Institutes + Associates

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Spatial Plans on the Island of Ireland are developed separately in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
Overcoming Legacy of Back-to-Back Development and Planning in Border Region

Cross-border Development and Cooperation long hampered by the Troubles and political climate.

Changing since the Peace Process (1998 Belfast Agreement) Yet:

• Two economies with distinct attributes and performances
  ➢ Mutually interdependent characteristics

• Two spatial planning strategies
  ➢ Same EU influences
  ➢ Tentative links – needs more detail
  ➢ Separate programmes for investment in infrastructure

• Some co-operation to tackle historic infrastructure deficits
  ➢ More to be done?
2005 Population
RoI 4.13 Million
NI 1.72 Million
Total 5.85 Million

2026 Population
RoI 5.39 Million = 1.26 ++
NI 1.85 Million = .13 ++
Total 7.25 Million = 1.39 ++

Responding to the Challenges

- Achieve better linkages between spatial strategies
- Create competitive & high quality environment
- Inject urgency: step-change needed
Why Collaborate North/South?

- EU, National and Regional Policy & Funding
- Conservation (Manage cultural & natural heritage)
- Cohesion (New urban- rural relationship)
- Competition (Parity of access to infrastructure / knowledge)
- Shared Challenges in meeting social equity agenda
- Improved Services
Borders: European Context & Policy

- Border regions cover 40% EU; home to 30% population
- Cross-border regions face particular challenges
  - emphasising centre over periphery
  - Economic Competitiveness
  - mobility
- Cooperation only happens at pace that political and institutional ‘book-ends’ allow
- Long history of cross-border collaboration throughout Europe
  - Achieving positive results/mutual gain
  - competitive advantage from joint strategic planning initiatives & integrated investment in infrastructure
- Collaboration specifically promoted in ESDP
  - principles of sustainable development
  - promoting complementary functional areas

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Emulating Success in Cross-Border Cooperation

The MOT network

Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière

Promoting best practices in spatial planning and economic development.
Emulating Success in Cross-Border Cooperation

Case Study 7: Belgium and France: Lille Metropolitan Area

Case Study 5: France, Germany, and Switzerland: Basel Tri-national Agglomeration

Source: Material taken from http://www.espaces-transfrontaliers.org/territoire/carte_lille_tfe.jpg

The first interstate authority in the United States was the **Port Authority** of New York and New Jersey.

Created in 1921 with the encouragement of the business community, it had the power to raise revenue through the bonds.
Regional Plan Association, Tri-State Region

Independent non-profit organization created in 1922, it is the oldest regional planning association in the country.

Operates in the Tri-State Region around New York City, a $1 trillion economy that includes northern New Jersey and southwestern Connecticut. RPA is an advocate for improving the quality of life and the economic competitiveness of the region. It

- Undertakes studies;
- Makes planning recommendations;
- Seeks strategic partnerships with key stakeholders;
- Gives technical support for the implementation of policies

Source: www.rpa.org

31-county region

Area: 33,670 km²

Population: 20 million
Framework for All-Island Collaboration

Research commissioned by InterTradeIreland in 2005

...to identify potential for developing framework for collaborative action

Options for a more collaborative and strategic approach

Option 1: Continue existing informal arrangements
Option 2: New all-island spatial planning initiative / structures
Option 3: New framework for collaboration (building existing relationships)

Key findings of report supported Option 3

Driven by priorities of economic competitiveness

- Working towards new spatial economy
  - Strengthening economic development
  - Creating a more dynamic island economy
- Pooling resources and increasing market potential

Closer integration of spatial planning, infrastructure and business growth requiring:

- Coherent management approach
- Escalated programme of action
- Practical support for targeted investment
Framework for Collaboration:

Elements

- Infrastructure project identification & selection (incl. Cross-border corridors)
- Identify and select joint capacities for shared resources / services
- Deliver results oriented programmes through evidence based decisions
- Initiation of regional & local spatial planning initiatives
- Prioritisation of strategic & targeted investment
- Specification on the programme of spatial planning research
- Endorsed by both governments for intensification of existing co-operation
- Engagement with business & other stakeholders
- Integration of spatial planning, infrastructure & business growth

Collaborative Action

Collaborative Elements

Action Agenda
Figure 8
Travel to Work Distance (Average) for the Island of Ireland 2001/2002

Joined-up analysis

Sources: NISRA (2001), CSO (2002), OSI and OSNI
Collaborative Action: Operationalising the Framework

- Illustrative infrastructural projects
  - TENS Rail Project: Cork-Dublin-Belfast
  - Broadband Infrastructure
  - All-island Energy Market Framework
  - Collaborative Planning Corridors
  - Planning Requirements for Data Collection and Analysis
  - Population Health Observatory
Framework for Collaboration: Action Agenda

- Establish an inclusive role for sub-regional networks to:
  - Link more effectively to central government / mainstream thinking
  - Interface with other representative agencies
  - Contribute to joined-up planning and development
  - Facilitate enhanced data and information
  - Provide additional critical mass for funding of strategic projects
Conclusions

- New planning scenario
  - Rapidly growing population
  - Long-term stable economic conditions
  - Dividends of peace process
  - Investment in productive and development potential
Conclusions

➢ High level framework for collaborative spatial planning

➢ Inform future investment programmes
➢ Maximise synergies within & between investment programmes
➢ Underpin balanced regional competitiveness
➢ Reposition and re-image the island as a globally innovative and competitive location
➢ Feed into funding programmes
ICLRD Current Research

- Evidence-Informed Planning
- Newry Dundalk Sub Region
- Small Connected Towns in Cross Border Areas
- Sustainability Study
THE ATLAS OF THE ISLAND OF IRELAND
Mapping Social and Economic Change

JUSTIN GLEESON, ROB KITCHIN, BRENDAN BARTLEY, JOHN DRISCOLL, RONAN FOLEY,
STEWART FOTHERINGHAM AND CHRIS LLOYD
Collaboration at the Sub-Regional Level
ICLRD Research for the Newry Dundalk Twin City Region

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

Source: Colin Buchanan Report
Located at the centre of the Dublin/Belfast corridor, Newry (pop 28,000) and Dundalk (pop 35,000) are the key drivers for a cross-border sub-region with an estimated 170,000 residents. The position of the sub-region on the M1/A1 motorway, rail links and easy access to international airports and ports provide good mobility and connectivity.

Dublin-Belfast road -- 14 million cars cross annually at the border.

At least 18,000 people cross the border every day to work, and 1.7 million people cross it annually by bus and train for shopping and other short-term trips.
Newry-Dundalk Attributes and Assets

- Long history of co-operation
- Shared environmental resource
- Access to an all-island market
- Improving transport infrastructure
- World class natural and cultural heritage
- Reputation for entrepreneurship
- Track record in securing funding

Source: Colin Buchanan Report
Cooperation Themes

Six major themes capture the potential benefits of voluntary cooperation for the Newry-Dundalk Twin-City region:

- Economic competitiveness;
- Sustainable development;
- Preservation of the natural and cultural heritage;
- Improved community cohesion;
- Increased efficiency resulting from the coordination of infrastructure investment; and
- Up-skilling for an economically productive workforce.
Potential Projects

• Geo-tourism and the management of a shared landscape and natural heritage to safeguard the geological assets and natural resources of the Mournes, Cooley, Slieve Gullion, and Carlingford Lough, and develop the tourism potential of the sub-region.

• A Dundalk/Newry Centre of Excellence to create a sustainable energy community linked to the work of Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) and EU Concerto funding which is positioning Dundalk 2020 as an exemplar for the island as a whole.

• A Newry-Dundalk as a location for cross-border international services to create additional tertiary employment.

• A coordinated regeneration strategy for older areas in Newry and Dundalk, to promote the distinctiveness of the two cities, further the complementarities of their respective urban functions and improve their liveability.

• Cross-Cutting Projects - Regional Infrastructure and Work Force Education
Elements of Promoting Cooperation

• A non-statutory approach to an integrated spatial planning and development framework focused on the mutual benefits resulting from enhanced cooperation between Newry and Dundalk;

• Actions to facilitate promotion, tourism, skills training, education, innovation, business development and the knowledge economy;

• Joint analysis and action by stakeholders in areas such as sustainable development, environmental management, cultural heritage, trade and investment and regeneration; and

• Spatial planning data and research relating to the key drivers influencing development patterns and trends.

• Harmonisation of legal and institutional frameworks.
Newry-Dundalk Twin City Region

- Growing regional self awareness, appreciation of shared strengths
- Building upon complementarities, joint pursuit on collaborative projects
- Delivering real and effective regional collaboration
- Moving towards a collaborative, non-statutory sub-regional framework
- Promoting a higher quality, value added and knowledge based economy
- Fostering a dynamic and innovative sub-region
Watershed ICLRD 2004 major conference,

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

Maintenance of the status quo in spatial planning policies that pay scant attention to each other is no longer acceptable

Increasing awareness of the need for both complementary collaboration and competitive collaboration

Need for accurate and robust information as a strong evidence base for effective decision-making
- “Joined-up thinking on roads, on shared municipal services, on environmental challenges, on infrastructure and complementary areas, make absolute sense for all of us.”

- Batt O’Keeffe TD, Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas (ICLRD Conference—January 2008)

- “There are considerable growth challenges north and south but there are many similarities in the trends that we measure. Solutions will require very positive attitudes, long term planning and coordinated actions if we are to achieve long term economic success coupled with high quality of life.”

- Conor Murphy MP MLA, Minister for Regional Development (ICLRD Conference—January 2008)
The key areas for all-island cooperation are:

- Infrastructure provision;
- Spatial planning
- Trade, tourism and investment
- Human capital
- Enterprise promotion
- Provision of public services (health, education)
- Environment
- Agriculture and fisheries
- Culture, heritage and sport
- Social inclusion.
• Cooperation in Spatial Planning and Cross-Border Development is increasing at difference scales
• Both Governments recognises that actions taken on one side of the border will generate spill-over effects on the other.
The new National Development Plan (RoI) Collaboration links spatial planning & infrastructure

Investing in key cross border projects (Chapter 5)

• Strengthening economic competitiveness

• Balanced regional development

• Joint implementation

• Value for money

• Economies of scale
The new Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland also links spatial planning & infrastructure and cross-border development.

The benefits of an Investment Strategy

- The publication of a longer term direction and commitment assists the public sector and other stakeholders to plan the effective delivery of major projects, some of which take many years from drawing board to site works and completion.
- Taking a holistic view of infrastructure needs enables more joined-up thinking in the planning and delivery of projects — helping to avoid duplication, secure efficiencies, and improve value for money.
- A 10 year planning horizon also provides our suppliers with more visibility of projects in the pipeline. This can stimulate market interest — improving competition and providing better value for money.
- A focus on the whole procurement lifecycle monitoring of projects and programmes in the Investment Strategy allows the Executive to clearly track progress against targets and accelerate delivery of much needed infrastructure to improve people’s lives.

Benefits of North/South co-operation

Co-operation in developing infrastructure, where appropriate, will help ensure more efficient planning and joined-up delivery of key projects, resulting in better value for money, economies of scale in public investment and better deals from financial markets.

Co-operation in border regions

In seeking to prioritise more balanced regional development, a particular focus will be on cross-border links and developing infrastructure in the border areas. Developing and upgrading transport links along the Dublin-Belfast corridor will ensure that this corridor forms a major axis for economic development on the island.

In the North West and Donegal, we will tackle regional disparities by further improving road links; enhancing the capacity and resilience of energy support networks; strengthening telecoms infrastructure; and developing the City of Derry airport.

EU funding for cross border co-operation over the period 2007-2013 will enhance the development projects in the border counties. Funding will be available from the British and Irish governments to support this co-operation. The International Fund for Ireland will also continue to promote economic and social development in the border region.

The pillars of the strategy

Approaching £2bn will be invested in the next 10 years to deliver essential infrastructure — around £6bn of this in the next three years. This money comes mainly from Executive funds, supplemented by receipts from the planned disposal of surplus government assets, and complementary investment from third party sources.
Status of the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland - 2025

Relationship with the Development Strategy

It should be noted that the Strategies that are set out above do not include all Strategies prepared by Government Departments.

Source:
Department for Regional Development

**Shaping Our Future:**

Adjustments to the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) - 2025
Developing a Regional Transportation System

The National Cycle Network in the North and the border counties

Source:
Department for Regional Development

*Shaping Our Future:*
*Adjustments to the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) - 2025*
Strengthening Regional Cohesion in a Global Context

Shaping Our Future: Adjustments to the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) - 2025
Thank you!

This presentation draws upon the work of ICLRD Colleagues from:

• The School of the Build Environment at University of Ulster
• National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis at NUIM Maynooth
• The Institute for International Urban Development, Cambridge Massachusetts
• The Centre for Cross- Border Studies