



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

Friday, 21 November 2008

Blacklion Golf Club, Blacklion, County Cavan

Final Programme

Introduction

10a.m. Registration - Tea/Coffee

10.15a.m. Welcome
John Driscoll, Director, ICLRD

Cross-Border Collaboration: The Mutual Benefits

10.30a.m. Fostering Mutual Benefits in Cross-Border Areas: The challenges & opportunities in connecting Irish Border towns and villages
Caroline Creamer, Neale Blair, Brendan O’Keeffe, Chris Van Egeraat & John Driscoll

10.50a.m. Respondents

(1) Border People and Cross-Border Mobility
Dr. Patricia Clarke, Research Manager, Centre for Cross Border Studies

(2) Cross-Border Cooperation: A Role for Local Government
Ciarán Tracey, Senior Planner, Leitrim County Council

(3) Building Competitiveness Through Partnership: A Role for the Private Sector
Niall Birthistle, Chairman, North West Chambers of Commerce Initiative

(4) Competitive Advantage and Local Potential: A Role for the Community
Carol Follis, Programme Manager for Strategic Development, Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)

11.30a.m. Refreshments

11.50a.m. **Open Forum**

12.30p.m. **Moving towards a new era of peace and cooperation**
Ms. Deirdre Ryan, Board Member, International Fund for Ireland

Launch of Report

12.45p.m. **Opening Address**
Jim Wells MLA, South Down
Eamon Scanlon T.D., Sligo-North Leitrim

1.00p.m. **North-South Cooperation: Real Partnerships meeting Real Needs**
Dr. Niall Holohan, Deputy Joint-Secretary, North-South Ministerial Council

1.10p.m. **Launch of Report: *Fostering mutual benefits in cross-border areas: the challenges & opportunities in connecting Irish border towns & villages***
Colm Tóibín, Novelist & Journalist; author of 'Walking Along the Border'

1.30p.m. Buffet lunch

Please RSVP by Tuesday, 18th November 2008