

Fostering Mutual Benefits in Cross-Border Areas

The Challenges and Opportunities in Connecting Irish Border Towns and Villages

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**ICLRD Report Launch & Focus Group
Blacklion Golf Club, Blacklion, Co. Cavan
21st November 2008**



The ICLRD

- Dynamic and decentralised network
 - cross-border, cross-campus, cross-disciplinary--international perspective
- 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.
- Aims to 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



5 Partner Institutes + Associates



ICLRD

Partners

- 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

Associates

- Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick
- Queens University

Networks

- All Island Research Observatory
- European Spatial Planning Observatory



Support and Funding

Multi-year core funding and funding for specific projects

- International Fund for Ireland
- Higher Education Authority
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- Department of Regional Development
- Strategic Investment Board NI
- Inter *Tradel* Ireland
- Special EU Programmes Body

ICLRD works at different spatial scales

- *EU-Island of Ireland---ITI Report- Collaborative Framework for Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland*
- *Regional- cross border and cross-county/council–Small Connected Towns*
- *Local- Sustainable Communities*



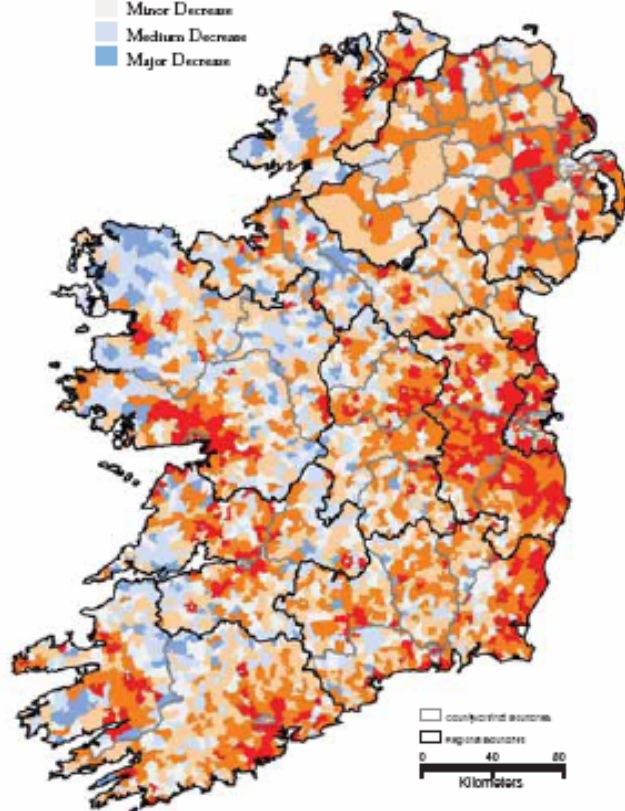
Map 6.4: % Change Population Density
1991-2001/02

1991 - 2001/02 Change

ROI Average: +11.10%

NI Average: +6.82%

- Major Increase
- Medium Increase
- Minor Increase
- Minor Decrease
- Medium Decrease
- Major Decrease



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 ++

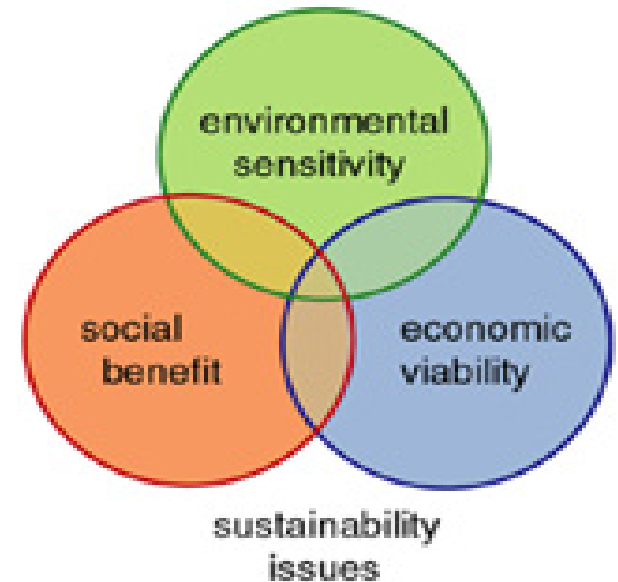
Total **7.25 Million** = 1.39 ++

Source: *The Atlas of the Island of Ireland: Mapping Social and Economic Change* (AIRO & ICLRD)



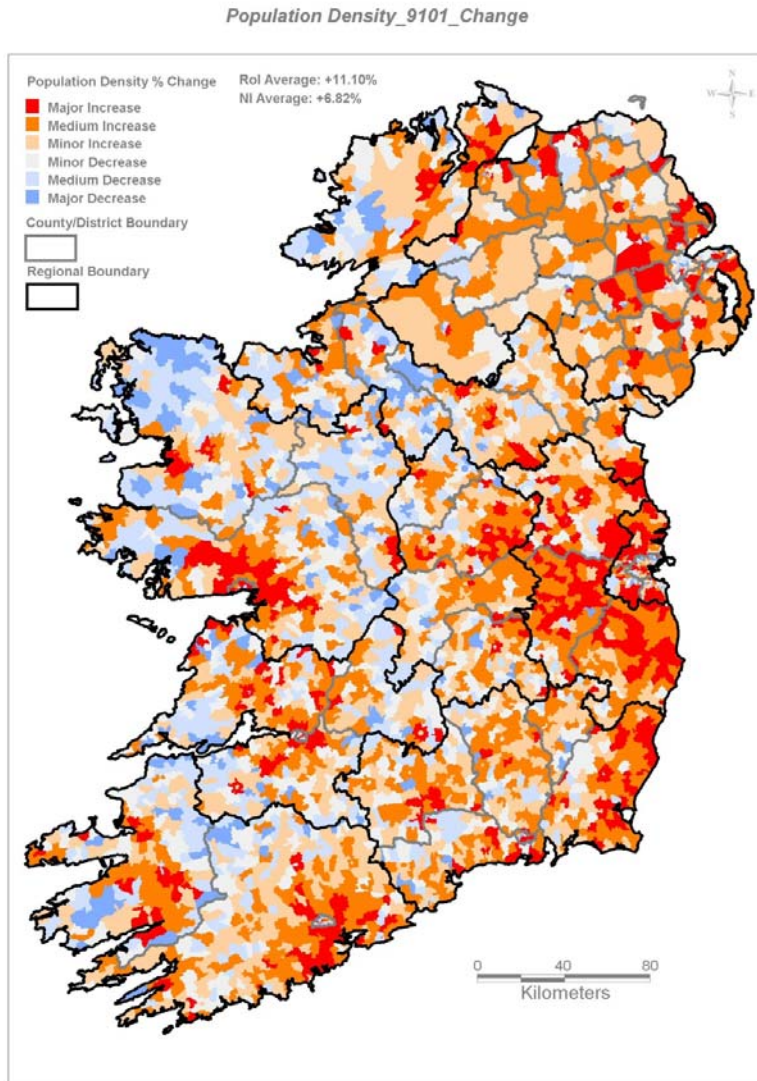
Why Collaborate North/South?

- 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



ICLRD Current Research

- Evidence-Informed Planning
- Newry Dundalk Sub Region
- Small Connected Towns in Cross Border Areas**
- Sustainability Study



Steering and Advisory Committee

Steering Committee

- **Dr. Chris Boomer, Planning Services Northern Ireland**
- **Dr. Patricia Clarke, Centre for Cross Border Studies**
- **Paddy Harte, International Fund for Ireland**
- **Dr. Niall Holohan, North-South Ministerial Council**
- **Ciarán Tracey, Senior Planner, Leitrim County Council**

Advisory Committee

- **Prof. Des McCafferty, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick**
- **Brendan Carolan, Sligo County Council**



Interviews and Workshop Participants

- *The Research Team met with over 145 people in the study areas through interviews and workshops (see Appendix 4)*
- *Lifford-Strabane,*
- *Kiltyclogher-Cashel/Scribbagh-Garrison-Rossinver*
- *Glenfarne-Blacklion-Belcoo*
- *Clones-Rosslea-Newtownbutler-Lisnaskea*
- *Castleblayney-Crossmaglen*
- *Observation Area: Truagh-Aughnacloy*
- *Observation Area: Pettigo-Tullyhummon-Kesh*



Today's Programme

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*



Today's Programme

Cross-Border Collaboration: The Mutual Benefits

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)*



Today's Programme

- 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*

Today's Programme

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



ICLRD Annual Conferences

1. Athlone, 2006
2. Newry, 2007
3. Armagh, January 2008
4. Letterkenny 22-23
January 2009



International Centre for Local and Regional Development
in collaboration with InterTradeIreland

Third Annual Conference

**FOSTERING CO-OPERATION FOR LOCAL
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH
CROSS-BORDER SPATIAL PLANNING**



OPENING SPEAKERS

John Gormley TD
Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin

Conor Murphy MP MLA
Minister for Regional Development, Belfast

with the launch by Tommie Gorman (RTE) of *The Atlas of the Island of Ireland*

