

Fostering Mutual Benefits in Cross-Border Areas

The Challenges and Opportunities in Connecting Irish Border Towns and Villages

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Presentation

1. Borders: Context & Policy
2. The Irish Border
3. Study of Connected Border Towns & Villages
4. Some Research Findings
5. Unleashing the Potential



1. Borders: European Context & Policy

- Border regions cover 40% EU; home to 30% population
- Cross-border regions face particular challenges
 - emphasising centre over periphery
 - rural restructuring
 - mobility
- Cooperation only happens at pace that 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

Activity	EU Example	Collaborative Framework Level		
		National	Sub-regional	Local
Case 1. Data base and mapping of cross-border activities	France and UK: Kent-Pas de Calais Cross-border Atlas, 2002			
Case 2. Facilitating the exchange of information	Nordic Council of Ministers: Baltic and North West Russia			
Case 3. Valorisation and preservation of natural and cultural assets.	Italian-Swiss Border Region			
Case 4. Waste management	France and Spain: Basque Eurocity			
Case 5. Transborder spatial planning: health, environment, transportation, education, economic development	France, Germany, and Switzerland: Basel Tri-national Conurbation			
Case 6. Transborder spatial planning: transportation (regional airport, high speed rail), natural resources, cost sharing	France and Switzerland: Greater Geneva Region			
Case 7. Transborder spatial planning: waste treatment plant, urban transportation, industrial park, GIS	Belgium and France: Lille Metropolitan Area			
Case 8. Enabling framework to allow bi- or multi-lateral local government co-operative agreements	France and Germany: Rhine Valley			



1. Competitive Advantage is Local

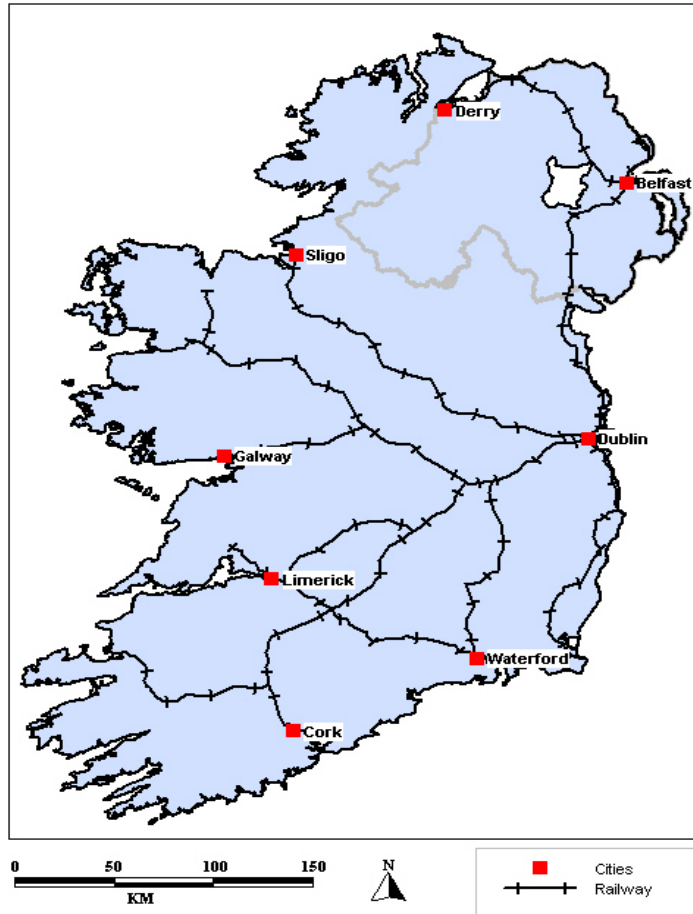
The importance of 'local/micro-regions':

“...enduring competitive advantages in a global economy lie increasingly in local things – knowledge, relationships, motivation – that distant rivals cannot match”.

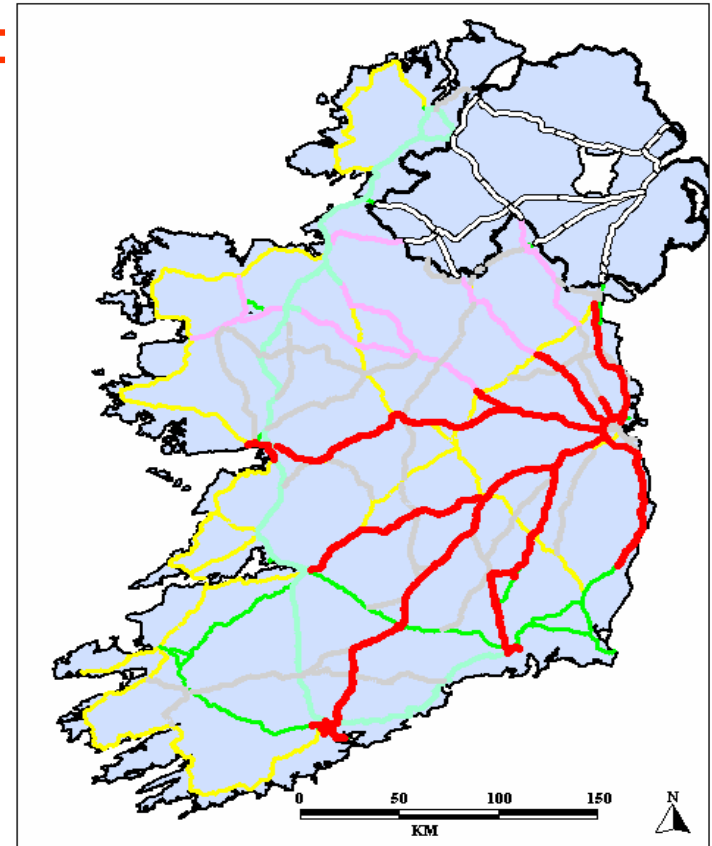
*Michael Porter, Harvard Business Review
Nov-Dec 1998.*

2. The Deficits

Rail:



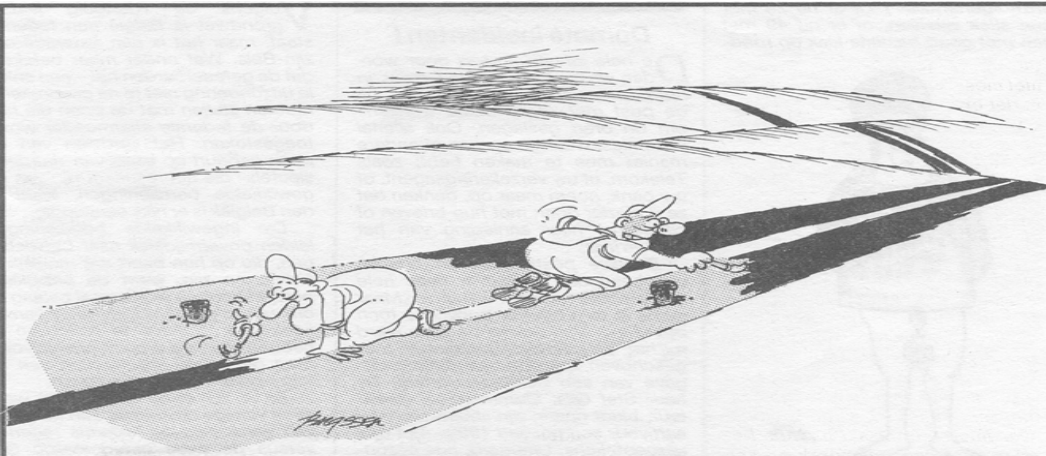
Roads:



The result of decades of back-to-back policy



2. Responding to the Challenges



- Achieve better linkages between spatial strategies
- Create competitive & high quality environment
- Inject urgency: step-change needed



3. The Border Towns & Villages

Back-to-back policy equals:

- Low levels of urbanisation
- High unemployment
- Low income
- Over-reliance on agriculture
 - poor quality land & elderly farmers
 - need for off-farm employment
- Infrastructure deficit

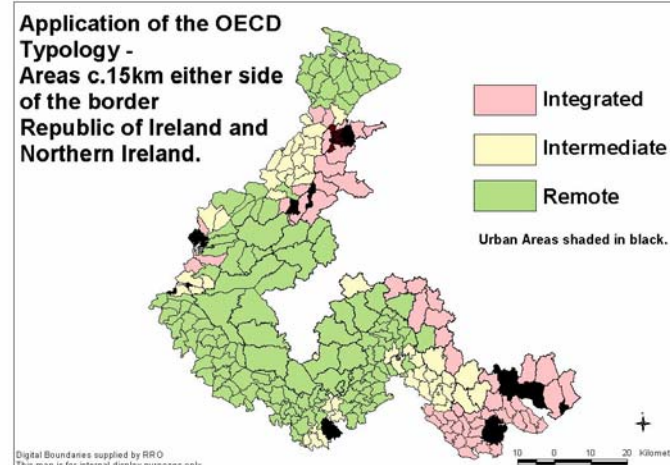
RRO Research: Focus on area 15km either side of Border

- 13% population of Island in 2001/2002
- Approx. 11% of land area of island
- OECD Typology: over 60% of this area 'remote'

Border Region 15km Study Area - Towns



Application of the OECD Typology - Areas c.15km either side of the border Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

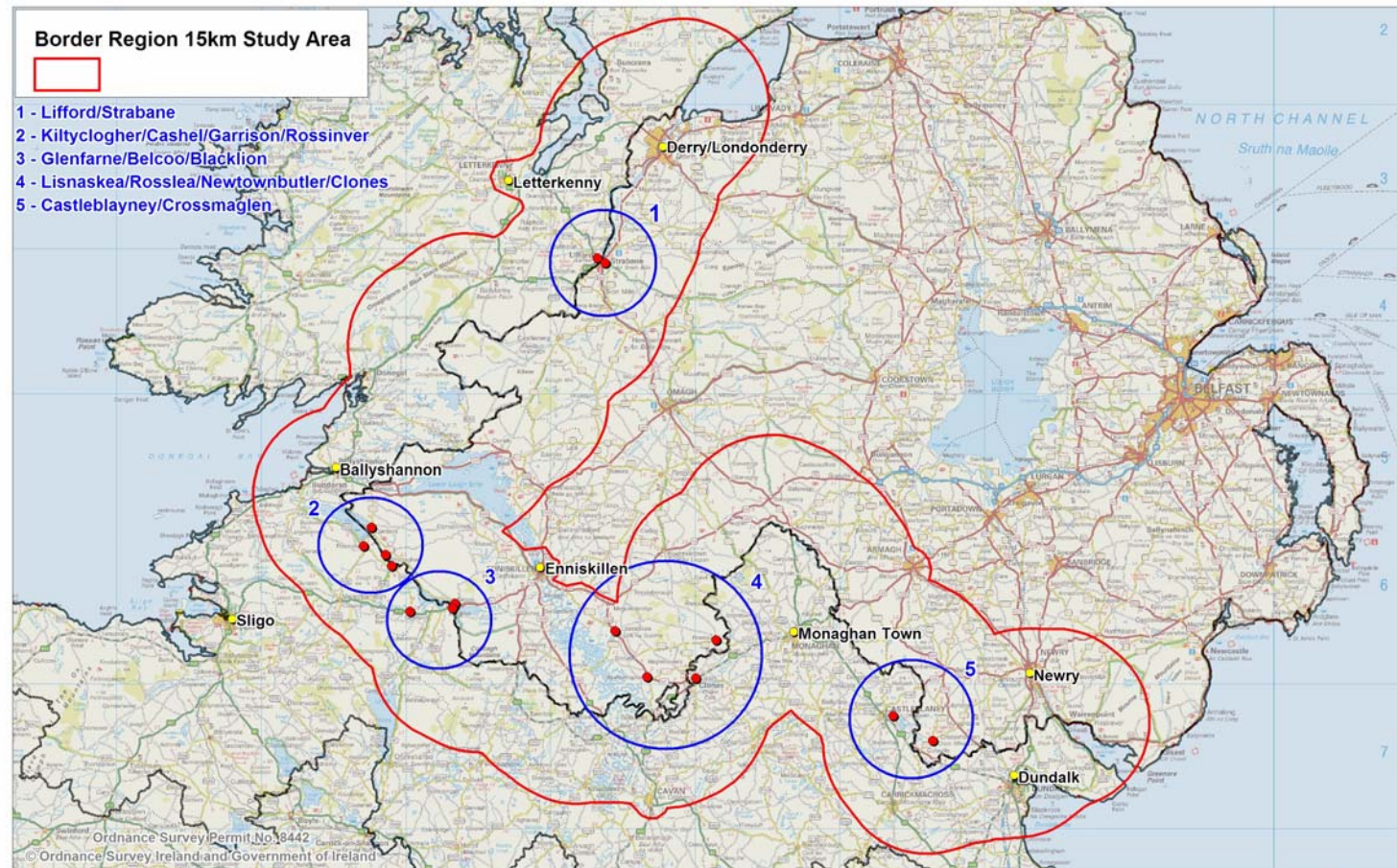


3. ICLRD Study:

Cross-Border Connected Towns & Villages

- Seed planted by International Fund for Ireland (IFI)
 - Value of considering the nature of cross-border relationships at micro-scale
- ICLRD – selected five cross-border ‘clusters’ of towns and villages from North-West to East Coast
- Examining what is the current level of connectivity (leading to mutual benefits) between the selected small cross-border connected towns and villages?
AND How can /if this be enhanced through spatial planning?

3. Case Studies



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3. Lifford-Strabane



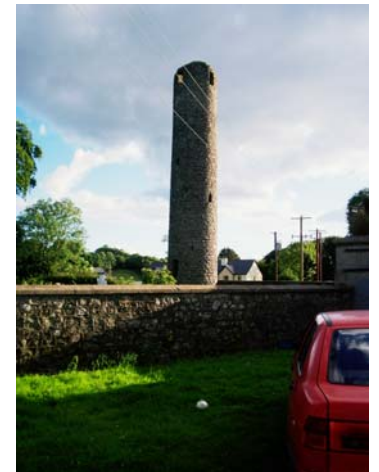
3. Kiltyclogher-Cashel-Garrison-Rossinver



3. Glenfarne-Blacklion-Belcoo



3. Clones-Rosslea-Newtownbutler-Lisnaskea



3. Castleblayney-Crossmaglen



3. Observations: Truagh-Aughnacloy & Pettigo-Tullyhummon-Kesh



3. Small Towns Study: Methodology

Tapping into the potential of small/medium towns and villages

Phase I

- Emphasis on “examining the level of connectivity between cross-border connected towns & villages”
- Through questionnaires & one-to-one interviews



Phase II

- Emphasis on “making communities border-effective”
- Through workshops and policy review



*All addressing the **key objectives** of:*

1. Determine nature of relationship linking selected cross-border towns/villages, and if areas are engaging in visioning exercises;
2. Identify factors associated with successful collaboration & potentiality;
3. Identify good practice in cross-border cooperation (local & transnational)



4. Emerging Collaborative Governance

Proposed Case Study	Size (based on pop.)	Distance	Connectivity	Emphasis of Connectivity	Time	Roll-out
Lifford-Strabane	S-M Size (1448 & 13456)	1km / 0.75mls	Historic; now being reinvigorated by IFI + Private sector E.g. SLDC	Social Economic Environmental	mid-1990s	EEIG; Strategic transport corridor
Castleblayney-Crossmaglen	Small towns (1822 & 1459)	12.5km / 7.8mls	Historic but ongoing; Politicians / Local Gov driving E.g. CASA	Tourism Socio-economic	Late 1980s; CASA in 2003	Local Gov - Strategy
Glenfarne - Blacklion-Belcoo	Villages (174 & 486*) *More than 1 ward	<1km / 0.5mls	Historic links (rail); Now Community driven E.g. Community Connections	Tourism Socio-economic Natural environment	Mid-1990s (ongoing informal)	Community driven - projects
Clones-Lisnaskea	Small towns (1517 & 2641)	19.5km / 12.5mls	Historic but Partition disconnect; Local Gov. driven E.g. CEEP	Socio-economic Other areas of common interest	2002 ('slow-burn')	Partnership – strategy
Kiltyclogher-Garrison-Rossinver	Villages (358, 370, 254)	10km / 6.5mls	Historic; Attempts to maintain during Troubles; Now community associations E.g. KiltyCashel	Socio-economic Cultural Tourism	Mid-1980s informal; 2002 (formal)	Community dev. through projects



4. Key Message

Cross-border collaboration becoming an integral element of local government and local community development

- I** dentifying mutual benefits for the participants involved
- D** eveloping connectivity on the basis of socio-economic development
- E** mphasising relationship building and understanding of each other
- A** dopting a common sense and strategic approach

4. Examples of cross-border initiatives

Urban:

- Environmental schemes
- Business networks
- Flagships (e.g. theatres, exhibition spaces)

Rural:

- Personal development
- Tourism / heritage
- Youth & Elderly

Common:

- Arts / culture
- Enterprise parks (different scales)
- Service provision (again, different scales)



4. Opportunities: Central Border Area

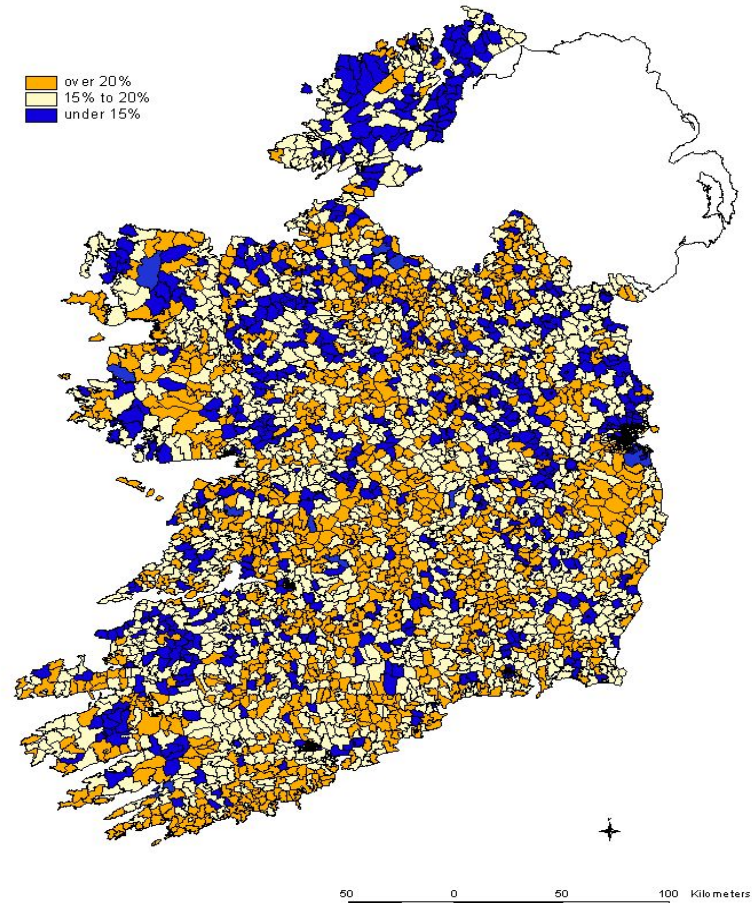
Emphasis on Social Capital

- Capacity building
- Up-skilling
- Conflict resolution

Projects including:

- Service provision
- Training (e.g. ICT)
- Tourism
- Heritage
- Environmental Schemes
- SME nurturing
- Youth & Elderly

Percentage of Persons (aged 15+ years) engaged in Voluntary Activity, at ED-Level in the Republic of Ireland, 2006.



4. Challenges: Access to Services

Making the case for service provision to be based on proximity rather than on one's jurisdiction of residence / nationality

Locations at Which Citizens Currently Access Services

Service	Glenfarne (Leitrim)	Blacklion (Cavan)	Belcoo (Fermanagh)
<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	In village	In village	In village
<i>Medical Emergency Service / A&E unit</i>	Sligo (45km)	Sligo (50km) / Cavan (47km)	Enniskillen (18km)
<i>Fire Station</i>	Manorhamilton (14km)	Dowra (17km)	Enniskillen (18km)
<i>Second Level School</i>	Manorhamilton (14km)	Manorhamilton (22km)	Enniskillen (18km)
<i>Public Library</i>	Manorhamilton (14km)	Manorhamilton (22km)	Mobile Library*
<i>Post Office</i>	In village	In village	In village
<i>Banking</i>	Manorhamilton (14km)	Dowra**/ Manorhamilton (17-22km)	Enniskillen/ Belleek (18-56km)

*every two weeks

** closing down

Locations of the closest service (geographically)

Service	Glenfarne (Leitrim)	Blacklion (Cavan)	Belcoo (Fermanagh)
<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	In village*	In village	In village **
<i>Medical Emergency Service / A&E unit</i>	Enniskillen (18km)	Enniskillen (18km)	Enniskillen (18km)
<i>Fire Station</i>	Manorhamilton (14km)	Dowra (17km)	Enniskillen (18km)
<i>Second Level School</i>	Manorhamilton (14km)	Enniskillen (18km)	Enniskillen (18km)
<i>Public Library</i>	Kiltyclogher (10km)	Kiltyclogher (17km)	Enniskillen (18km)
<i>Post Office</i>	In village	In village	In village
<i>Banking</i>	Manorhamilton (14km)	Dowra*** (17km)	Enniskillen*** (18km)

* Part-time surgery hours between Glenfarne, Manorhamilton and Kiltyclogher

** Part-time surgery hours between Florencecourt, Kinawley and Belcoo

*** Credit Union in Blacklion and Belcoo on part-time basis



4. Going Forward: Strengths of Region

- **Local knowledge-base**
 - addressing identified local need
 - experience of working collaboratively (confidence, recognising what needed)
 - entrepreneurial (willing to take risks)
- **Community spirit**
 - high level of engagement
 - commitment to cross-border engagement
 - a well developed human resource base in co-operation
 - personal networks
- **Natural & cultural resources**
 - common ecosystems & experiences
 - under-exploited to date
- **Emerging Connectivity (in the new planning policy environment)**
 - Gateways & Hubs
- **Potential for complementarity in services**
 - Health; education; and other public services



4. Adopting a Micro-Level Approach

The micro-level (local) approach to cross-border collaboration optimises the opportunities for mutual benefits:

- Improvements in relations between neighbours from different political backgrounds
- Greater cultural diversity
- Enhanced local amenities, facilities, community venues and resource centres
- Improved, and in some instances, new local services
- Improved dialogue and shared information between local authorities, leading to joint projects.

5. The Devil's in the Detail!

At a Crossroads ----- Which Road to Take?

- Cross-border collaboration is changing
 - Governance
 - Nature of funding
- Local actors continue to face a number of barriers. Most notable in this respect are the:
 - The changing focus of some, and the imminent cessation of other, funding programmes
 - The increased levels of 'red tape' involved in the drawing down and accounting for monies received through various sources
 - Disparities in respect of local government remits and responsibilities and variations in approaches to public service delivery.



5. Recommendations Going Forward

Central Government

- Promoting institutional 'fit' / alignment of functions
 - Publication and on-going review of non-statutory collaborative framework
- Preparation of cross-border integrated plans
 - Covering spatial policies, infrastructural links: North/South & East/West
 - Redress gaps in transport & communications
- Exchequer Investment
 - Alignment of Investment Strategies
 - Supporting self-sustainability / mainstreaming

Regional Government

- Enhanced role for Border Networks as facilitators of economic ideas/ activities
- Establishment of Cross-border Councillors' Forum, Cross-border Business Networks & Cross-border Civil Society Forum

Local / Micro-region

- Identifying cross-border functional linkages & business opportunities
- Emphasis on addressing local needs which are evidenced-based
- Improved service provision on cross-border basis
- Build on local entrepreneurial spirit & opportunities



5. ...Applying this to Central Border Area

Thinking strategically and long-term with vision

- Eco-tourism
 - water-based activities (incl. boating, jet ski-ing, angling)
 - hiking/cycling/ walking trails
 - health farms
- Artists retreat
 - arts & crafts holidays
 - cookery holidays
 - training programmes
- Network of enterprise forums
 - cross-border in nature
 - role in marketing region as location for SMEs (possible 'clustering')
 - identify training needs and source appropriate training
- Celebration of showband era



Thank you.



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