

Sustaining Cross-Border Co-operation: A Case Study Approach

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Overview



- **HISTORICAL FRAMEWORKS AND DYNAMICS**
- **OUTLINE OF CASE STUDIES**
- **WHAT SUSTAINABILITY MEANS AND THE FACTORS WHICH SHAPE IT**

HISTORICAL FRAMEWORKS AND DYNAMICS

- *From Partition to the Good Friday Agreement*
- *European Integration and Cross-Border Cooperation*
- *Supports, Constraints and Limits*

THE CASE STUDIES

Outline of the Research Project

Ten case studies; 35 interviews selected to include:

- Examples of co-operation within three main sectors
- a range of different cross-sectoral partnerships
- Areas covered by N-S Implementation bodies, 'designated areas of co-operation and areas not covered by the GFA
- Co-operation confined to the 12 'border counties'
- Co-operation established prior to GFA as well as linked directly to it.

Overview of case studies

Case Studies	Pre/ Post GFA	Geographical target area	Primary sectors involved	Main Funders
Vocational Training (Border Horizons)	Pre	Border Counties	State/ Economy/ Third Sector	IFI
Waterways Ireland	Post	Island Wide	State	Government Departments
CAWT	Pre	Border Counties	State	INTERREG/ Peace
Local Authority (ICBAN & EABR)	Pre	Border Counties	State	INTERREG/ Local Authorities
Rural Development (RoSA)	Pre	Border Counties	Third Sector	Peace

Overview of case studies

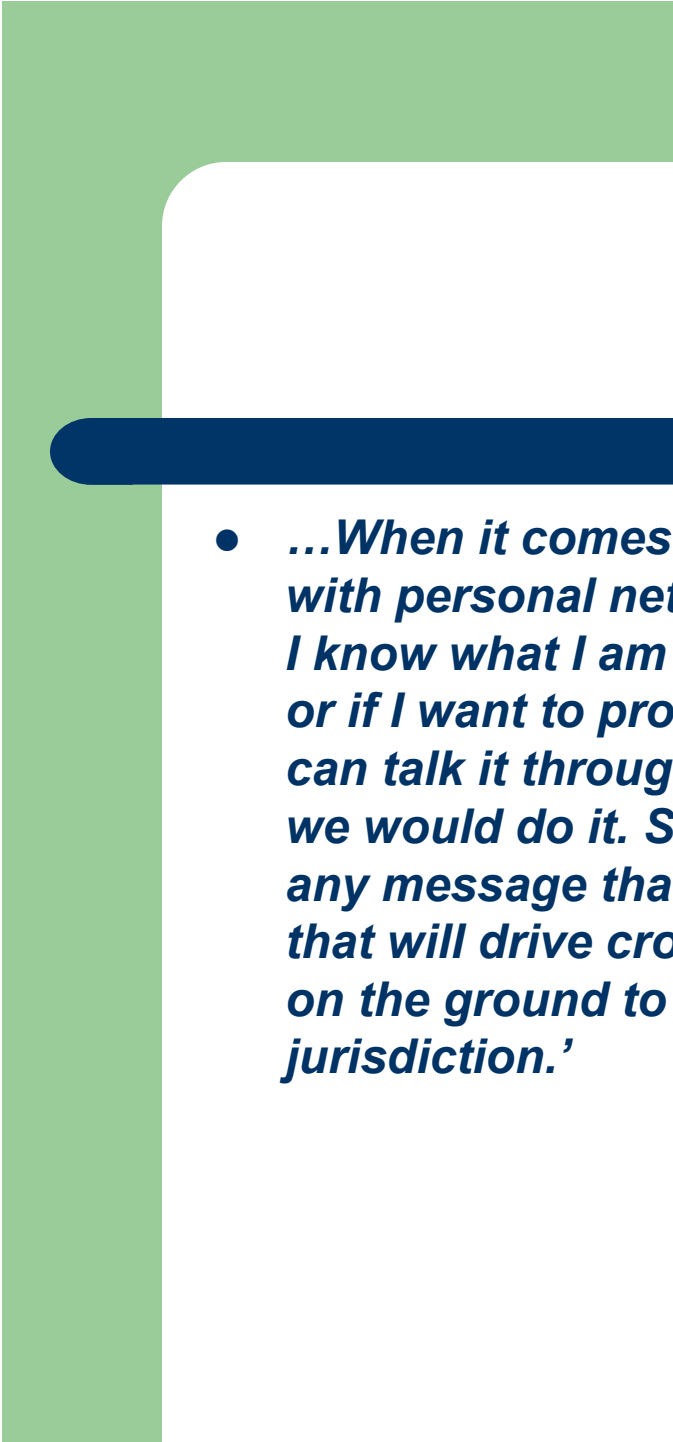

Case Studies	Pre/ Post GFA	Geographical target area	Primary sectors involved	Main Funders
Women's Sector (WEFT/ Derry Well Woman Centre)	Pre	All-Island Border Counties	Third Sector	Peace
Tourism (Greenbox/ Sliabh Beagh)	Post	Border Counties	Economy Third sector	Peace INTERREG
*Business/Enterprise (CBI-IBEC Joint Business Council Border Visions)	Pre Post	Island Wide Border Counties	Economy	Business/ INTERREG/ Peace
Energy (Coolkeeragh)	Pre	Island-Wide Border Counties	Economy	Business/EU Structural funds
*Sport (IRFU)	Pre	Island-Wide	Third Sector	Self-Funding

Four Illustrative Cases

Case studies	Border Horizons	CAWT	ICBAN	Coolkeeragh
Date of Origin	1999	1992	1995	1992
Content	Vocational Training For Young Unemployed	Improving Health Services in Border Region	Socio-economic development in Central Border Region.	Re-development of power station as new gas-fired facility in in Derry
Partners	Business, FÁS, DEL, (outside Ireland)	WHSSB, SHSSB (NI) NWHB, NEHB (RoI)	10 local authorities (NI; RoI)	Coolkeeragh Plc, Brit/Irish Govs, ESB
Political Administrative Support	US Gov (via IFI), RoI/NI training agencies, International companies, donations/ fundraising	State Agencies	NI Powersharing Executive, EU Commission	NI Powersharing Exec; Brit/Irish Govs EU Commission


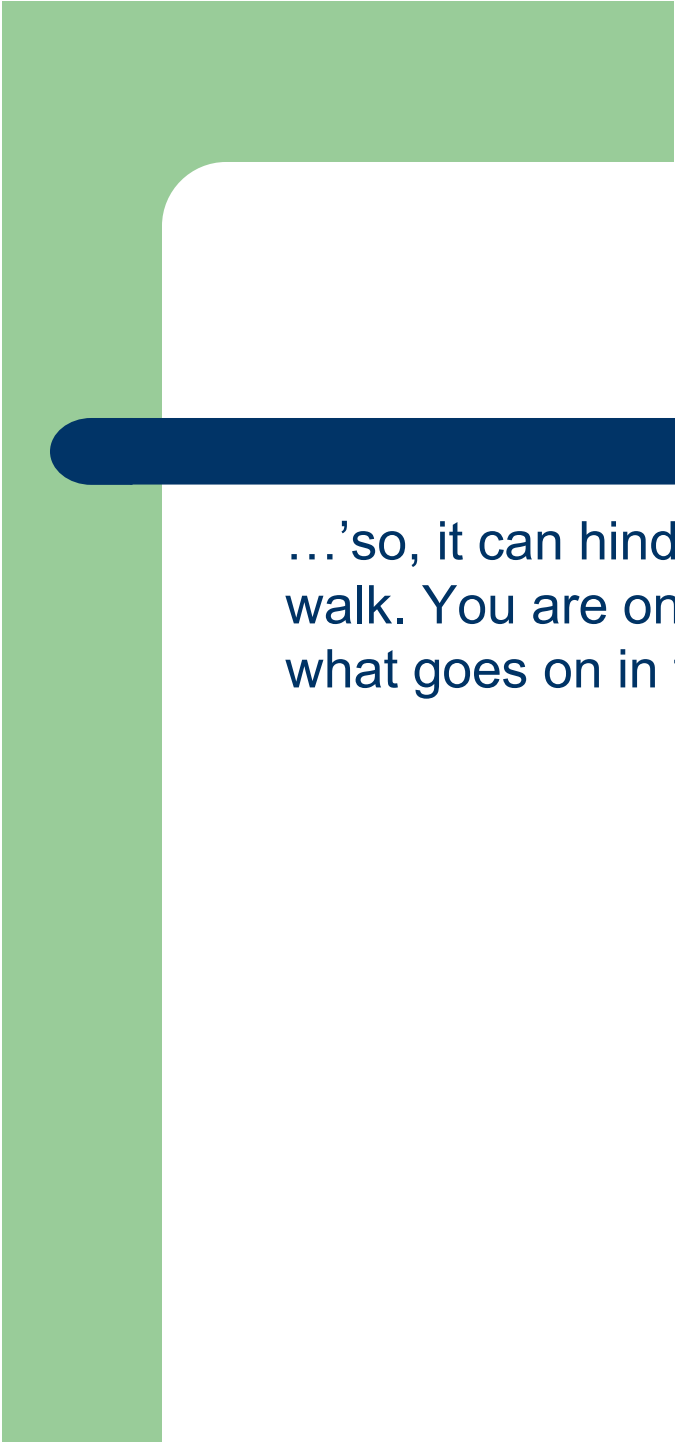
WHAT SUSTAINABILITY MEANS AND THE FACTORS WHICH SHAPE IT

- Sectoral Meanings of Sustainability
- Political, Administrative and Funding Context
- The 'demand' for 'co-operation' projects
- Effectiveness and relevant experience of project personnel and of personal networks

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- ***...When it comes to cross border co-operation (...) it really has to do with personal networks. I know people, people trust me, I trust them, I know what I am capable of doing. I know if I want a problem solved, or if I want to propose an idea. I just have to phone them up, and I can talk it through with them. And that, if it is to our mutual benefit, we would do it. So, it is all to do with personal networks. If there is any message that I get through to you today: what is the key asset that will drive cross border co-operation, is the ability of individuals on the ground to network effectively with counterparts of the other jurisdiction.'***

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- The 'demand' for 'co-operation' projects
- Effectiveness and relevant experience of project personnel and of personal networks
- Degree and Nature of Institutionalisation



...’so, it can hinder your career development, you are on a side walk. You are on a backwater, and nobody really knows about what goes on in this (cross-border) unit”

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- Sectoral Meanings of Sustainability
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- Effectiveness and relevant experience of project personnel and of personal networks
- Degree and Nature of Institutionalisation
- Grassroots Support and Legitimacy

Conclusions

- Current phase of cross-border co-operation is coming to an end.
- Sustainability criteria are not self-evident and vary across the main societal sectors
- CBC needs persuaders and publicists to highlight its strategic and long-term benefits who also highlight the costs of non-co-operation
- Factors reducing sustainability include inadequate funding, lack of political direction, institutional inertia and poor institutionalisation of existing CBC networks
- Future sustainability will be enhanced by: projects based on flexible, cross-sectoral partnerships, and by government willingness to increase resources, and avoid continuing to develop 'back to back' policies in areas such as community relations, public administration reform and spatial planning
- Human resource of cross-border workers with strong cross-border networks and experience needs to be protected and developed in next phase