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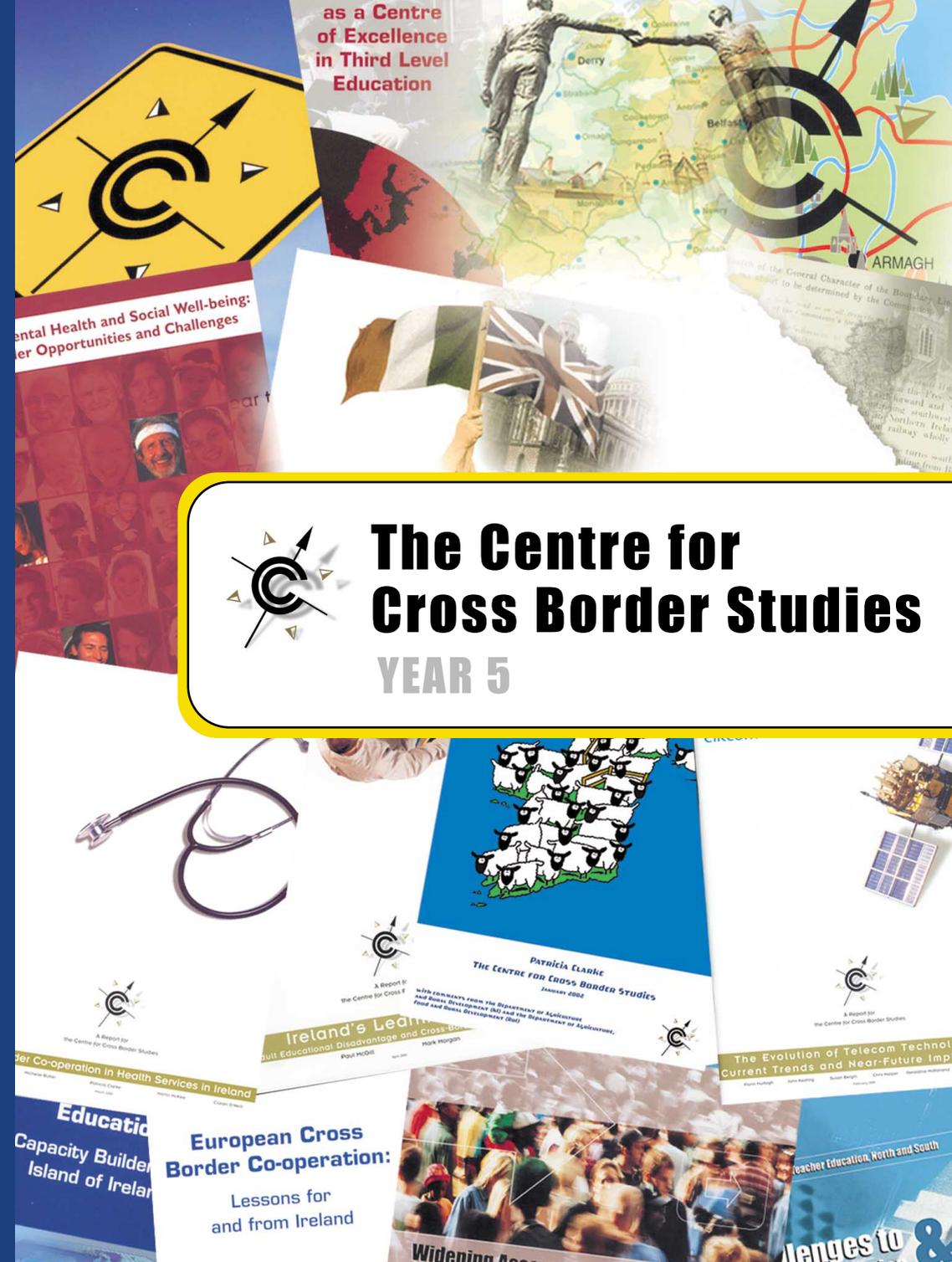
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**The Centre for
Cross Border Studies**
YEAR 5

with articles by Sir George Quigley, Tony Kennedy, William Poole and others

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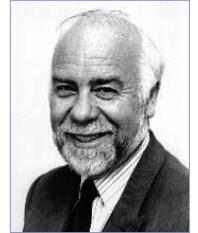
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A word from the Chairman - Chris Gibson OBE

December 2003

I hope you will enjoy reading this 2003-2004 Brochure and Yearbook from the Centre for Cross Border Studies, now in its fifth year of existence. During that short time, the usefulness of the Centre's mission as a practical and pragmatic research and development organisation has been amply demonstrated through its broad range of research projects, seminars and conferences, and exchange programmes. The Centre's goal has been and continues to be to highlight ways and means of enhancing the well-being of all who live and work on the island of Ireland.



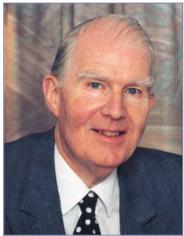
This year's publication marks a break with the past, in that it contains, in addition to information about the Centre's activities, signed articles from a number of people with an interest in practical cross-border co-operation on the island of Ireland. These include Sir George Quigley, the originator of the Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor concept; Tony Kennedy and Catherine Lynch, respectively Chief Executive and Research Officer with Co-operation Ireland; William Poole, Joint Director of the IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council; Ian McCracken, a development worker with the Derry and Raphoe Action cross-border community development group; and Andy Pollak, Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies.

May I thank all who have contributed in any way to the Centre's success in recent years, especially those who have worked for and with it. We look forward to continuing to make a synergistic contribution across many areas.

Chris D Gibson

THE UNFOLDING AGENDA OF NORTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION

Sir George Quigley



As the contributions to this volume illustrate, interaction between the two parts of the island is far greater in a wide range of areas than it was ten years ago. People and

institutions have got to know each other and, in a structured way or more informally, have taken matters forward from there.

It would be surprising if it had been otherwise. There is no escape from the notion of the whole island as an economic space articulated by investment, trade and business links, to the benefit of all who have the ability to compete effectively for the rewards which it offers. There are parallels all over the world for this kind of economic zone, transcending state boundaries.

The circumstances for the re-creating of the island as such a zone will become even more favourable as and when the UK joins the Eurozone. The island will then be fully exposed to all the influences which work within a single currency area to accelerate the process of economic cohesion which so many now take for granted.

There is always a danger, however, that, when something becomes 'old hat',

people file it away and fail to realise that the project is incomplete. We are still some way from the strong circuitry which would transform the island into a shared enterprise platform to sustain and enhance competitive performance and enable it to realise its full potential.

The fact that both parts of the island are on the cusp between two stages of economic development offers a significant opportunity to create such a platform. Each has to make the transition from an investment-driven to an innovation-driven economy in order to maintain (and still more, enhance) current living standards in a global economy where most economic activities can be undertaken anywhere.

The emphasis has to shift from achieving economic growth by importing technology and harnessing it to local production through the medium of Foreign Direct Investment. Rather than convert other countries' ideas, both parts of the island have to generate their own, thereby capturing front-end innovation activities and becoming the first link in the creation of new value chains rather than winning the competition to host the less valuable parts of existing chains.

This means that more companies must substitute an entrepreneurial, proactive, product-led business strategy for a reactive, price-led strategy. There needs to be constant engagement between such companies, well equipped to handle technology management, and the universities and research

institutions, which themselves should constitute a constantly interacting, interdisciplinary environment. The future lies with regions characterised by cross-fertilisation of ideas, networking and collaboration.

Both parts of the island should recognise the strategic value of their proximity and tackle this challenging innovation project together, drawing on the concerted capabilities of the entire island to exploit the potential of the new era to best advantage. The increasing co-operation between the higher education sectors is an important step in the right direction.

The notion of a Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor, which the business bodies have been ably developing over the past decade, remains sound. Its potential is now strongly on display at either end of the transport axis, very obviously in Dublin and increasingly in Belfast, as its vital forces mobilise in a region now well on the way to normality. And, very importantly (since the axis should be a corridor, not a tunnel), the intermediate area represented by Newry, Dundalk and Drogheda has shown encouraging evidence of growth.

The close-grained juxtaposition of talents, the impressive stock of social capital and the presence of support services of all kinds in the Belfast-Dublin envelope underscore the creative potentiality present in the vigorous interaction of the enterprises and the third level education institutions within it. Promoting that interaction ever more

effectively constitutes the ongoing challenge.

The prospects for North/South economic integration are greatly enhanced by the new spatial strategies being developed in both parts of the island to avoid and correct dysfunctional patterns of growth. Critical mass is a good thing but not when it becomes self-reinforcing (as it has in Dublin) to the point of congestion. What each part of the island is now doing is in effect to integrate its own economy and, in the process, reveal options for closer integration between both parts as the infrastructure is reconfigured in line with the new spatial strategies.

In the North, projected corridors from Belfast to Newry; from Derry to Omagh, intersecting one from Belfast to Enniskillen; and from Belfast to Derry, bifurcating at Antrim to offer alternative routes to the North-West, have the potential to make both parts of the island accessible to each other as never before, right along the border from Donegal, through Sligo and Monaghan, to Louth. A 'Border Highway' from Dundalk to Sligo, snaking up round Enniskillen as well, would give the segment between Belfast/Dublin and Dublin/Galway the connectivity to unlock its potential.

The investment ongoing and in prospect on the roads radiating out from Dublin to the emerging new city regions from Waterford up around the west coast is clearly necessary. But it can be argued

that equally important, if the economy is to be rebalanced, is to invest sufficiently in the linking up of the city regions and their hinterlands so that there develops a 'Western Corridor' which is a formidable counterweight to the eastern seaboard.

Viewed in an island perspective, therefore, one can envisage highly accessible Eastern and Western Corridors spanning the whole island and laced together by lateral linkages from top to bottom. The island would have the chance to become a multiple interactive system, with a steady proliferation of lines of activity criss-crossing in all directions.

Such a system has connotations which go far beyond the economic. There is now widespread recognition that there should be an island energy market which is integrated into the rapidly developing European energy market. Neither part of the island is large enough on its own to generate adequate competition or enable economics of scale to be reaped. The way ahead lies in the co-ordinated planning of investment in transmission systems; significantly expanded cross-border energy sales; and harmonisation of systems of regulation.

The strides made in joint marketing of the island as a tourist destination is another example of co-ordinated effort which holds great promise.

In an era when public sector resources are struggling to meet demand, it

makes sense to see where, again by co-ordinated effort, facilities can be shared to the benefit of both parts of the island. There should, for example, be gains from shaping health services in border areas in terms of the needs which exist on either side. And there must be a case for evaluating proposals (North or South) for expensive high tech medical equipment in terms of a catchment area that transcends the border.

The border constitutes no barrier to the mass movement of fans to sporting venues in both parts of the island. With improved transport links, particularly between Belfast and Dublin, there must surely in the future be much stronger cross-border flows for cultural events of all kinds.

I believe that the factors influencing the kinds of developments I have described (reflecting as they do the logic of developments on a global scale) are sufficiently strong and pervasive to persist, whatever the political climate. But they will undoubtedly come to fuller flowering – and more quickly – in circumstances where governments are keen to foster potential synergies and where the soft functional overlays (like InterTradeIreland, which has rapidly proved its effectiveness) are encouraged and supported. And of course it is important that the island dimension should not simply be an 'add on', something that is factored in after all the really formative thinking has been done separately in the key policy areas North and South.

The National Development Plan and the Community Support Framework for the Republic of Ireland (2000-2006) had North-South co-operation as one of its horizontal (or cross-cutting) themes. It is salutary to note that, in its recently published mid-term evaluation, the Economic and Social Research Institute found that, overall, there had been quite a low level of co-operation across the relevant Operational Programmes and concluded that progress had been adversely affected by the political hiatus in Northern Ireland.

Borders connote finitude, but in the 21st century the only true horizon is the world's edge. Where borders exist, the challenge is to transcend them. Many in Ireland – without any political agenda – are determined to do exactly that.

Sir George Quigley is Chairman of Short Brothers plc, part of the Bombardier Aerospace Group; president of the Economic and Social Research Institute; and has chaired numerous public bodies and government commissions in both Irish jurisdictions.

TOWARDS AN ISLAND AT PEACE WITH ITSELF: AN NGO VIEW OF NORTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION

Tony Kennedy and Catherine Lynch



The past decade has seen dramatic changes in the scope and direction of North-South and cross-border co-operation at many levels. Changes at the political level,

most notably the ceasefires and the signing of the Belfast Agreement, have legitimised this co-operation.

The North-South institutions and the decision by the Irish government to establish departmental sections specifically dedicated to cross-border relations are testimony to the

promotion of North-South relations from a weakly-supported aspiration to a key political goal.

At grassroots level, the significance of cross-border co-operation to the building of peace and reconciliation was recognised by the European Commission when it devoted 15% of funding under both PEACE Programmes to the promotion of cross-border links in the business, community, education and other sectors (although under EU regulations these have to be links

between Northern Ireland and the six Southern border counties). Notwithstanding the work of organisations like Co-operation Ireland and funders like the International Fund for Ireland and the Ireland Fund over the last two decades, it was these events that together constituted the most significant sea change in cross-border and North-South relations. These changes introduced resources and political weight to the promotion of North-South co-operation.

Assessing the impact of these changes is only useful if we do not lose sight of the rationale for co-operation and the pressing need for the further promotion of co-operation between the two parts of this island as a fundamental part of peace-building and development.

For in spite of an apparent apathy in the Republic of Ireland towards Northern Ireland¹, the relationship between the two entities will have a critical effect on whether or not the uncertainty concerning the outcome to the peace process is resolved. Conflict in Northern Ireland will be truly addressed only when the two largest communities trust each other and have developed some capacity to build a shared future: this will not happen without reference to, and some consensus on, Northern Ireland's relationship with the Republic of Ireland. While it may be tempting to believe that the Belfast Agreement and the retraction of the Irish Government's claim to sovereignty over Northern Ireland has institutionally settled the issue of North-South relations, this

interpretation is weakened when one considers the current obstacles to implementing the settlement and the opposing positions adopted by the two largest political parties in Northern Ireland. Sinn Féin tries to persuade its constituency that the Agreement advances the realisation of the dream of a united Ireland, while the DUP continues to argue that its constituents can avoid integral and permanent engagements with the Catholic community yet still live 'peacefully' on the island of Ireland. Whether accurately or inaccurately, the advocates of these approaches frequently legitimise their position with reference to the position of the Republic of Ireland.

In fact, a shared understanding of the relationship between Ireland, North and South, is unlikely to emerge as the product of developments at the political level alone: it is more likely to emerge alongside an ongoing process of co-operation for mutual benefit at the societal and grassroots levels. This shared understanding should underpin the legitimacy of political institutions in Northern Ireland. As the Northern economist Paul Teague has argued, the involvement of numerous actors at all levels in cross-border co-operation should ultimately result in "a growing trust that relaxes unionists' attitudes to the island-wide imagined community so crucial to nationalists, leading to positive political spill-overs for the legitimacy of the institutions within Northern Ireland".

To achieve maximum impact all

North-South co-operation should be broadly focused on one central aim. This is to encourage a process of ever closer relations between the two parts of the island so as to reduce the hindrances that the border presents to economic co-ordination, social cohesion and cultural reconciliation, and ultimately to lead to an island at peace with itself.

But has the dual impact of institutional change and the PEACE Programmes on the scope and direction of North-South co-operation moved us closer to achieving this objective? What have been the impacts of the recent 'sea change'?

The PEACE Programmes and other funding initiatives² have enabled unprecedented numbers of community and youth groups to become involved in cross-community and cross-border projects. For example, 2,000 applications were received under Measures 3.1 (cultural and business links) and 3.4 (cross border community reconciliation) of the PEACE I Programme, and 834 partnerships were funded. While the PEACE II Programme has concentrated on larger grants and thus fewer projects, the cross-border cultural and reconciliation measure (5.3) was heavily over-subscribed, and Measure 5.5, cross-border educational initiatives, was fully allocated after one call.

The popularity of these measures suggests a high level of interest in cross-border community development,

educational, cultural and reconciliation-focused projects. Co-operation Ireland's own research of community groups in the border areas in 1999 found that 87% of those surveyed were very interested in pursuing cross-border co-operation. A scoping study of North-South education exchanges carried out by the Centre for Cross Border Studies in 2000 highlighted the dramatic increase in the number of North-South links between second level schools: 46.7% of Northern Protestant fee-paying/grammar schools and 44.4% of other Protestant schools, and 83.9% of Northern Catholic fee-paying and 60% of other Catholic schools reported cross-border links. A total of 540 schools, North and South, involved in such links was a dramatic increase from the 100 two-way exchanges supported by Co-operation North in the late 1980s. It is clear that political changes have been partly responsible for this increase in schools' willingness to become involved in cross-border partnerships.

This picture is repeated in the community sector. Since 1995 Co-operation Ireland has supported an extensive number of cross-border contact projects between mainly Protestant community and youth groups in East Belfast and Sandy Row and groups in the Southern border counties. For many young people in both jurisdictions this was their first trip across the border. Anecdotal evidence from several evaluations indicates the significant role that this contact has played in breaking down misperceptions and prejudices for people on both sides

of the border. Given that survey evidence highlights a growing unease about the protection of their cultural tradition among the North's Protestant population since the signing of the Belfast Agreement³, programmes like these are vital for the future of peace-building on the island.

Changes in the environment have enabled Co-operation Ireland to develop models of contact that, for political and resource reasons, we were unable to develop in the past. Such models increase the depth and frequency of contacts and focus on activities and concerns that all participants have in common. For example, our Civic Link Programme focuses on developing secondary school students' civic capacity (ability to understand and impact on local community development issues). This learning experience contributes to mutual understanding through contact that increases students' awareness that, regardless of their different backgrounds, they have much in common. A similar model can be useful for community groups: our research has shown that many community groups prefer to focus on the activity involved in the linkage and on its mutual benefits, before moving to consider issues concerning reconciliation.

In this respect time-bound funding has a number of drawbacks. Firstly, it can limit the ability of partnerships to reach their full potential: the partners may be only approaching an appropriate time to address reconciliation issues when a

resource shortage makes the partnership difficult to maintain. Secondly, Northern Irish groups who come from areas where community relations are particularly tense are frequently more willing to consider reaching across the border. In time and with capacity building, this could be a vital step towards better relations with their neighbours – but only if resources permit this next stage.

Co-operation Ireland welcomes the impact that commitments by both governments to North-South co-operation have had on the volume and depth of activity. However, a strategic and developmental approach

to the building of a coherent policy for North-South co-operation across all government departments and agencies, alongside a partnership approach with civil society to policy-making, should be adopted so that funding truly addresses need, duplication is avoided and models of best practice are developed. This approach could ensure that we genuinely use the space that structural changes have created to build peace on this island.

Tony Kennedy is Chief Executive of Co-operation Ireland and Catherine Lynch is the organisation's Research and Communications Officer.

FOOTNOTES

1. In a discussion document dated December 2000 the Irish Peace and Reconciliation Platform found a readiness among people in the Republic of Ireland to scapegoat Northern Ireland and its people and to hold them responsible for their own misfortune. However, this was notably found to exist alongside a culture of adherence to unrealistic nationalist ideals.
2. The EU Programmes (PEACE and INTERREG) represent the largest single source of funding for cross-border co-operation but many other sources exist including the Ireland Fund, the International Fund for Ireland, which is planning to increase its focus on co-operation in the community and voluntary sector, government departments (especially in the area of educational projects and exchanges) and US funds such as the George Mitchell Fund and the Atlantic Philanthropies.
3. Successive Life and Times Surveys have revealed this trend. See Joanne Hughes and Caitlin Donnelly, 2003.

WHY SHOULD THE SOUTH CARE ABOUT CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION?

Andy Pollak



Once again, Northern Ireland faces political deadlock, with the DUP and Sinn Fein on top of the electoral pile, and David Trimble and Mark Durkan's accommodating

visions of unionism and nationalism apparently deserted by increasing numbers from their respective constituencies.

In Dublin the weariness with the North is palpable. The Taoiseach is reported to be furious with the republican movement's refusal to make significant transparent moves towards total arms decommissioning. The political scientist Ronan Fanning spoke for the vast majority of politically conscious Southerners when he spoke at a recent conference of the "deep-seated disenchantment and boredom among outsiders" with Northern Ireland. As the South starts tentatively to emerge from the economic downturn of recent years and the Irish Government takes on the onerous task of running the European Union for six months, the North is as low on the political agenda as at any time since the start of the peace process in the early 1990s.

There is real danger in this Southern disillusionment. One of the cornerstones of the Good Friday Agreement – and one of its surprise success stories – has been that agreement's 'Strand Two': the institutionalisation and expansion of North-South co-operation. This led to the establishment of six North-South bodies in areas ranging from trade and business development to waterways, food safety and the Irish language, and – until the institutions were suspended – a wide range of meetings to plan and begin to implement joint work between government ministers in Belfast and Dublin.

It would be extremely unwise if the general Southern boredom with the North were to lead political leaders to put such practical and unthreatening co-operation between the neighbouring jurisdictions on the island into cold storage. The Taoiseach, Mr Ahern, only too conscious of this, exhorted his Cabinet in mid-December to continue giving a high priority to such co-operation despite current political difficulties.

Because there are a growing group of people who believe that this is an important part of the way forward for peace in Northern Ireland and reconciliation on the island of Ireland. The DUP electoral victory hides the fact that growing numbers of Northern Protestants, particularly those from a business background, realise that doing more things on an 'island of Ireland' basis makes good sense in this increasingly inter-connected, globalising

world. It is no coincidence that six of the seven writers contributing articles in favour of North-South co-operation to this yearbook are from a Protestant background. It is no coincidence that the pragmatic DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson has said that as long as cross-border co-operation is for "practical purposes" and not for advancing the nationalist agenda, then he is fully in favour of it.

There are two reasons why the government and people of the Republic of Ireland must respectively develop and support cross-border co-operation on this island. The first is the obvious one: that it is an essential part of the peace process.

As one senior North-South official has pointed out, the "wasteland of emptiness" that characterised North-South relations for most of the 20th century was a contributory factor to the decline into communal strife in the North. For more than 75 years two parts of an island which up to then had been one political, administrative and economic unit turned their backs on each other, so that with the exception of a small number of business, church and sports people, significant contact between the peoples of the two jurisdictions was almost non-existent. The result was an atmosphere of mutual misunderstanding, mistrust and suspicion. Northern nationalists were full of resentment at the way they perceived that the South had abandoned them. Northern unionists felt they wanted nothing to do with an

impoverished, priest-ridden, Gaelic state.

The breaking down of those barriers that has started to take place seriously over the past six years is part of the difficult emergence of a new mutual understanding and trust on the island, which as Tony Kennedy and Catherine Lynch point out elsewhere in this yearbook, is a *sine qua non* for the slow business of building an island at peace with itself. It is not in the South's economic or political interest to have a smouldering, bitterly divided, deeply suspicious and occasionally still violent province as its immediate neighbour. It is bad for investment and jobs. It is bad for law and order and social harmony. It is bad for the health of the Republic's body politic.

All this is common sense. Just as sensible is the argument used by business people that not only is it in Northern Ireland's interests to open up economically to and learn from the still vibrant economy of its nearest neighbour, but that such economic and business co-operation is also in the Republic's interests. In his yearbook article William Poole of the IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council shows that with improved infrastructure, information and business support – and driven by a group of committed business leaders and the new trade and business development body InterTradeIreland – trade between North and South doubled in the seven years up to 2000.

There are many other examples of potential future synergies which will benefit business on the whole island. One obvious response to high energy prices in both jurisdictions, but particularly in the South, is an all-island energy market linked to UK and European suppliers. This has been agreed in principle between the administrations North and South and a joint working group of officials is currently working out its future implementation.

Another area where all-island co-operation is working for both jurisdictions is tourism, where in 2003 the new North-South body Tourism Ireland Ltd oversaw a 4.5% increase in overseas tourist numbers to the island at a time when the international tourism market is largely depressed.

A third is in higher education, where several universities North and South have forged new research and teaching links in areas as varied as food safety, e-governance, human rights law and business studies. Here a new nine-university umbrella body, Universities Ireland, and a new body linking the colleges of education and other teacher education providers, SCoTENS (the Standing Conference on Teacher Education North and South) emerged in 2003, both administered by the Centre for Cross Border Studies. Universities Ireland's first research project is on the harmonisation of university regulations across the border in order to facilitate greater student flows.

A recent proposal from the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School for a high level joint doctorate in business studies with the School of Management and Economics at Queen's University Belfast spoke of the importance of the two parts of the island "orchestrating their resources" so as to put universities, North and South, in the forefront of the drive to turn Ireland into the "Boston of Europe" by attracting the "very top brains in the world." Entrepreneurs already know the value of links with the North's universities: Queen's University is a world leader in oncology and the miniaturisation of electronics; the University of Ulster has an international reputation in biomedical sciences and art and design.

InterTradeIreland has seen some spectacular successes through its programme of linking Southern firms with Northern universities to solve particular business problems and exploit particular market opportunities. InterTradeIreland also has a programme to facilitate companies to bid for public procurement contracts in the other jurisdiction, stressing that the public procurement market on the island as a whole is worth over €13 billion.

A group of very senior Southern business leaders have been meeting their Northern counterparts informally for the past year, examining how they can work together concretely to improve the competitiveness of the 'island of Ireland'. This group has already forged important links with key

US business and competitiveness groups, who appear much more interested in working with colleagues throughout the island than restricting their co-operative efforts to the Republic.

In the Irish public service, there is also a recognition that officials can learn from the high quality of the UK-style 'systems and processes' in the North's civil service when they are allied to the often more dynamic and outward-looking methods developed in recent times in the South, particularly when dealing with the European Union.

The health service is an obvious sector from which the South can learn. The imbalance in the quality of the two services is crystal clear in the border region, where anecdotal evidence indicates that hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of Southerners cross the border every week to avail of cheaper and more efficient GP, dental and hospital services. One GP in a Tyrone border village told the Centre recently that if everyone on his books came from the village itself, it would be transformed into a large town.

Education is another area where the South has a large amount to learn from the North: whether it is from the superb services provided by the decentralised education and library boards, or more advanced representative and leadership training bodies like the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland and the Regional Training Unit.

It will take time for the South to start to treat Northern Ireland as a place to learn from rather than a place to avoid and belittle. There are still too many senior civil servants who prefer to look elsewhere in the UK, to the USA or even to the Antipodes for examples of good practice to follow when there are numerous initiatives waiting to be learned from 80 miles up an Irish road. Similarly, there are far more business people interested in investing in Poland or Croatia than in Portadown or Coleraine.

But make no mistake about it: despite the daunting obstacles facing the peace process elsewhere, this new North-South co-operation house is being built. Over 700 civil servants in both jurisdictions are working on its construction, plus hundreds more people from non-governmental organisations like Co-operation Ireland and the Centre for Cross Border Studies and projects funded by the EU PEACE Programmes. Whether ordinary Southerners realise it or not, North-South co-operation is going to impact on their lives in a growing way in the coming decades.

Andy Pollak is Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. He is a former religion and education correspondent with 'The Irish Times'.

WHERE NOW FOR THE BELFAST – DUBLIN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR?

William Poole



At the beginning of the 1990s business and political optimism were in fairly short supply. The 'Troubles' were still raging; there were long delays for commercial vehicles

crossing the Irish border; there was considerable lack of knowledge about the market in the opposite jurisdiction, and reinforcing this was a concern about risks associated with doing business on the other side of the border, particularly in the North.

However at the same time there were stirrings in the business community about the possibilities of addressing the low level of trade between the two parts of Ireland. The Confederation of Irish Industry (CII) in Dublin and the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) in Northern Ireland concluded from a comparison of the Danish market (also of 5 million people) that sales of goods manufactured on the island of Ireland could be increased by 50% from six to nine billion pounds.

Analysis showed that the two economies on the island had operated in relatively separate compartments for decades, and that manufacturers in the Republic were selling only one-third as

much per capita in Northern Ireland as they did in the Republic, while Northern Ireland manufacturers sold only one-sixth as much per capita in the Republic as they did in the North.

The two business confederations agreed that trade between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland could be increased significantly and set an objective of doubling trade between the two parts of the island within five-six years. To help drive this process, the CBI-CII (later IBEC) Joint Business Council was set up in 1991.

A further catalyst was a speech by George Quigley of the CBI to the CII's annual conference in February 1992 in which he proposed the development of a Belfast – Dublin Economic Corridor. He and Liam Connellan of CII strongly promoted this idea both in Ireland and in the US. It was based on the premise that a significant part of the population on the island of Ireland was concentrated in this eastern corridor area, and that experience of similar corridors in north America and in Europe had established the benefit of such activity not only within the corridors but also for whole countries.

A study carried out by Indecon and Price Waterhouse established a number of features of successful international corridors which included –

- The importance of transport infrastructure
- The necessity for interaction between companies

- The importance of service as well as manufacturing industry
- The need for corridors to have an international focus
- The role of university – industry linkages
- Access to government agencies and initiatives

The study drew attention to current weaknesses in the Belfast – Dublin corridor region: for example its poor road and rail infrastructure; poor access to ports and airports; low level of cross – border interaction between firms, and low level of telecommunications interconnection between the two main cities.

On the positive side, the study also recognised a number of existing strengths in the corridor region. These included significant linkages between firms in the northern and southern parts of the corridor and firms in other parts of their respective jurisdictions. It identified several key sectors which could be expected to benefit from the clustering and co-operation between firms brought about by development of a corridor, including computers/ software, chemicals/ pharmaceuticals, metal goods, electrical and electronic, clothing and textiles, food and drink.

On the basis of the study it was concluded that a corridor should be developed but not at the expense of other parts of the island. Main recommended actions to advance the corridor included:

- Improve the transport infrastructure
- Improve telecommunications
- Enhance university - business linkages
- Assist companies to develop food and drink products
- Attract a number of key sub-supply firms to the corridor
- Promote trade in business, technical and other services
- Establish a dedicated Joint Council unit to develop the corridor

A business-led Corridor Task Force was set up, led by Terry Larkin from CII and Len O'Hagan from CBI, and was closely co-ordinated with the Joint Business Council (JBC) Trade and Business Development Programme and Infrastructure Development Committee.

Twelve years of progress

Over the past 12 years, initiatives in the Belfast- Dublin Corridor have given rise to a wide range of public and private sector initiatives. The JBC and Corridor Task Force's co-operation with local authorities and local chambers of commerce resulted in sustained lobbying of government departments in Dublin and Belfast for improvements in North-South infrastructure, services and legislation.

There was considerable interest from small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the corridor area in becoming involved in the JBC Trade and Business Development Programme, which covered both public and private sector opportunities in both jurisdictions. The telecommunications sector, where ICT

was becoming increasingly important to developing international competitiveness, received particular emphasis.

The Trade and Development Programme, the JBC's mainstream activity during the 1990s, involved bringing together over 6,000 company representatives from both jurisdictions in a series of more than 300 meetings, most of them in the corridor area. This led to significant SME and North-South multinational corporation networks being formed, new products being introduced and new business developed. Key North-South reports included a directory of technical assistance in the construction industry; an all-island directory of 4,000 companies with 'world class' accreditation, and a report on opportunities in the catering industry.

The development of the Corridor was greatly assisted by a number of landmark events. Completion of the Single European Market in 1993 led to removal of the economic border on the island, meaning that the long border delays were removed at a stroke.

In the late summer and autumn of 1994, the IRA and the loyalist paramilitaries declared ceasefires, and after over 3,100 deaths and 25 years of terror, the hope of a stable economic environment became a tantalising prospect. In April 1998 came the Good Friday Agreement, which led to the setting up of InterTrade Ireland as an inter-governmental North-

South Trade and Business Development Body.

Perhaps most important of all, from the mid-1990s on, the Republic of Ireland's 'Celtic Tiger' economy outpaced all other European economies, with annual growth rates of 8-11 per cent in 1996-2000 leading to burgeoning growth in the Belfast- Dublin Economic Corridor.

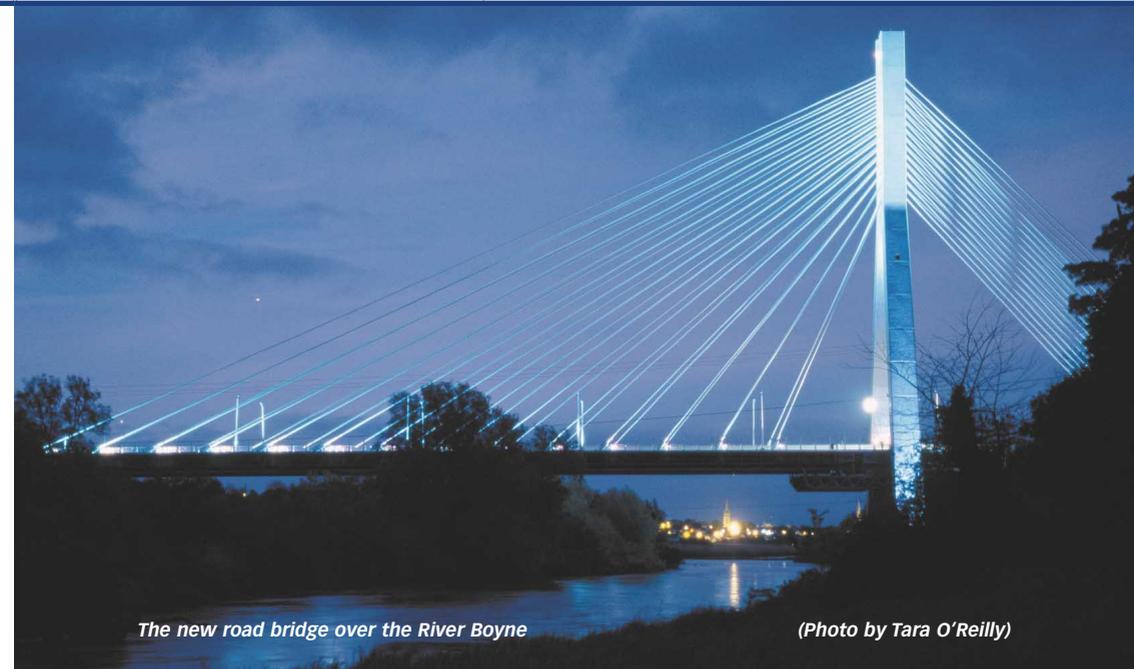
Progress was measurable in terms of increasing cross-border mergers and acquisitions; increased market opportunities; improved cross-border mobility, and, most significantly, in the doubling of North-South trade that was the Corridor's original aim. Between 1993 and 2000, trade in both directions rose from 1,118 million to 2,236 million Irish pounds.

There were also major challenges. The most significant of these was the Republic joining the Eurozone in 1999, which presented business in both parts of the island with a new Sterling-Euro land border.

The importance of the Corridor

Development of the Belfast-Dublin Corridor has played a catalytic role in the economic growth of the island economy over the past decade in a number of ways.

- The demographics of the Belfast-Dublin Corridor, which contains over 50% of the island's population, have created a focus for investment in infrastructure and economic



The new road bridge over the River Boyne

(Photo by Tara O'Reilly)

growth. Examples are improvements in the M1/A1 road (notably the completion of a motorway from Dublin airport to Dundalk) and the new higher-speed Belfast to Dublin Enterprise rail service, which has almost trebled the numbers it has carried since being introduced in 1997.

- While the most noticeable development successes in the corridor region are in Newry and Dundalk, developing commuter traffic is increasingly seen along the whole Corridor, opening new opportunities and challenges for growth in all its parts. Increasingly the corridor area is becoming better integrated with the strategic

infrastructure North and South, both in terms of transportation and telecommunications.

- East-west linkages between the Belfast-Dublin Corridor and mainland Europe, both directly and via Great Britain, continue to be important to companies in Ireland seeking to be internationally competitive and to enhance their supply chains. These are reflected in increasing levels of shipping services and air services to firms in the corridor region.
- Most encouraging has been the proactive role played by local councils within and associated with the Belfast-Dublin Economic

Corridor. ICT initiatives such as Trade-Net, many of which have been assisted by EU funding, have made a crucial contribution here.

The Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor has been a critical catalyst to growth in the whole island over the past decade. Its further development should be seen in the context of the island economy. For this reason, concepts such as developing a North-South digital corridor have rightly been expanded by InterTradelreland into developing a digital island.

The improvements in road, rail, air and sea infrastructure within the corridor have been welcomed by business in the context of globally competitive supply chains which affect companies in all parts of the island. On the other hand, the needs of peripheral and isolated rural communities must also be addressed in terms of connectivity to the island's strategic infrastructure, and inevitably this means to the strategic East Coast Corridor.

One of the lessons of the past decade is that differences between the Northern and Southern jurisdictions attributable to tax and duty variations distort normal competition. For example fuel prices that are sometimes up to 20% lower in the Republic of Ireland have resulted in a high percentage of Northerners' fuel purchases being made in the South.

Looking to the future with confidence

The prospect for the future of the Belfast-Dublin Corridor and for the island economy is an exciting one. This statement is based on a number of premises:

- The most important is that peace is here to stay. This continues to be critical to future business development and prosperity on the island.
- The North-South work of InterTradelreland, through initiatives like the FUSION technology transfer network, the EquityNetwork private equity scheme, and the expertiseireland.com research portal, is developing and expanding.
- Local communities are coming together through Local Strategy Partnerships and Cross Border Partnerships both in the Belfast-Dublin Corridor and through the INTERREG-funded Border Corridor Groups in the East, Central and North West border regions.
- Universities, Institutes of Technology and Colleges of Education, North and South, are working to match skills provision with business needs.
- New opportunities are being developed to achieve a digital island and to help achieve integration of energy provision North and South.

- Business and the public sector are discovering new ways of developing public-private partnerships to open up a €13 billion public sector market place on the island to SMEs north and south.
- A Belfast-Dublin motorway is scheduled to be completed in 2007-2008. This will overcome one of the most significant obstacles to efficient North-South mobility in the form of the poor road between Newry and Dundalk.

The IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council has been privileged to play its part with InterTradelreland and others in developing business in the Belfast-Dublin economic corridor, the cross-border INTERREG region and in the island as whole. The JBC has recently redefined its future mission as: "Developing and sustaining business co-operation within the island of Ireland and addressing international competitiveness."

Hats off to Sir George Quigley's dream. In 2003 the Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor is a reality, with a doubling of trade between the two parts of the island, much of it attributable to the dynamic developed in the eastern corridor. Here's a final suggestion: Would the opening of the Dublin Port Tunnel in 2004 be an appropriate opportunity to invite InterTradelreland on behalf of the two governments, and

the IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council on behalf of the private sector on the island, to work together on a second 10-year plan for the corridor region?

William Poole is Joint Director of the IBEC-CBI Joint Business Council.

A DONEGAL PROTESTANT'S VIEW OF CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

Ian McCracken



My earliest recollection of the border was in the late forties, when I was about ten or eleven, being taken in to Derry by bus. Just before departure my mother would disappear into the bedroom with various items like pounds of butter and bags of sugar, only to reappear some five minutes later adjusting the belt of her overcoat and apparently without these items. The border was the customs man in uniform entering the bus and walking to the rear, turning and walking back again. 20 yards up the road came the same procedure but people seemed tenser. The bus then continued its journey. On arrival in the Maiden City the first action was to call with friends – to use the toilet, I was told. The butter and sugar I had seen earlier reappeared on the friends' table. Then there was some shopping – I don't remember for what.

On the way home the procedure was the same in reverse order. First the nice man at the Northern customs, then the other man at our hut. This time the tension seemed greater here. As the man in uniform left and the bus groaned as it picked up speed everyone quite

suddenly became so friendly. Smiles and knowing glances were exchanged between people in neighbouring seats, for all had something in common.

Later motor cars became the usual form of transport. Now the driver took a book into the hut to be stamped and initialled. At the Northern customs building a pass known as a triptyque was shown. For a motorist the border was now a more important frontier than for the pony and trap driver a decade earlier. Once across, in either direction, a car could not return unless there was an officer present at the Eire customs to stamp and initial that book. There was no road barrier but to the car driver there was no crossing the frontier without the rubber stamp.

This state of affairs continued until 1967. Then the rubber stamp was no longer required. A motorist could cross the border at any time of the day or night in either direction. If the posts were "manned" (in the days before gender equality when manned meant manned) one had to stop and declare. Then at one minute to midnight on 31st December 1992 the man at the border post posed the question for the last time "Have you any goods liable to duty on board?" – then he was gone.

I started teaching in Derry/Londonderry in September 1961 and retired in 1998. For all of those years I was a cross-border worker. As a Donegal Protestant I accepted things as they were. The border was part of the daily routine. As time went on the constraints became

less and movement between the two countries became easier. The double taxation arrangement in the 1982 budget made the tax burden crippling until it was later eased. The tax on road fuel has varied like a yo-yo on each side of the border. Filling stations on one or other side of the border flourish while their counterparts on the other side go out of business. Then the pendulum swings back and the roles reverse.

In the higher reaches of government there has often seemed to be a desire to emphasise the border as much as possible. Indeed I feel that both governments have cheated. We were told about free trade and the harmonisation of taxation systems. However it is the ordinary individual, through various test cases in the European courts, who has brought pressure to remove some of the cross-border inconsistencies and extract change from the powers-that-be.

In the rural community prior to the mid sixties farming in Northern Ireland was more prosperous and the Donegal Protestant saw the far off cross-border fields as greener. Since that time, farming in the Republic has been perceived as providing a better income than it does for farmers in the North. Yet if the Northern Protestant farmer is a unionist he does not seem to have any green envy of his counterpart in Donegal.

However the last thirty years of conflict have produced a difference in view between the Northern and the Donegal

Protestant. The Donegal Protestant would see the border as a line that has largely separated us from the physical hurt experienced by our Northern counterparts. The Northern Protestant sees the border as the escape route for terrorists to a safe haven in the Republic. It is also the barrier that prevents them from being absorbed into a united Ireland and enables them to maintain a British identity.

I have been involved in organising some cross-border conferences where people are asked to exchange views on the border. It is very difficult to persuade Donegal Protestants to engage in this topic. They state quite openly that they have no interest in the subject: "Who cares?" is a frequent response. The Northern Protestant has a much greater interest in discussing issues relating to the border as a barrier – be it physical, political, economic or cultural – than his Donegal neighbour.

Derry and Raphoe Action exists to build confidence in and encourage rural Protestants in counties Tyrone, Londonderry and Donegal to participate in community development. I have been privileged to engage with the Donegal Protestant community for the past five years. The work has been interesting and enjoyable. I believe I have been fortunate to be around at a time when there is a growing optimism within the county and within Protestantism there. This is expressed in terms of a willingness to look to funding bodies for support to improve facilities and to share these, to some degree, with the whole community.

I believe Protestants in the Republic are moving on from being a passive remnant of pre-partition Ireland to an active minority who identify as being Irish. Our numbers in Donegal, as in the state as a whole, have risen in the ten years since the 1991 census, for the first time since the border came into being.

Evolution teaches mankind that timing plays an important role in giving new values to what otherwise might be superfluous appendages. There are numerous examples of organisms with features that developed for one purpose but which later found another, even

richer role in a different environment. Feathers, it is believed, first evolved from reptile scales as an efficient form of heat insulation. Later, much later, feathers were the key characteristic that enabled fast running reptiles to take off and become birds. In the natural world there are no abrupt edges. Perhaps in the human world the Irish border has a similar role – only we have to see it in a longer time scale.

Ian McCracken is Development Officer for Donegal with the Derry and Raphoe Action cross-border community development group.

Information about

THE CENTRE FOR CROSS BORDER STUDIES

The Centre for Cross Border Studies receives financial support from the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation



December 2003

The Centre for Cross Border Studies, founded in September 1999 and based in Armagh and Dublin, researches and develops co-operation across the Irish border in education, health, business, public administration, communications, agriculture, the environment and a range of other practical areas.

The Centre is an independent company limited by guarantee (UK charity no. XR 31047) and is owned jointly by Queen's University Belfast, Dublin City University and the Workers' Educational Association (Northern Ireland). Its principal financial contributors are the EU PEACE Two programme, the Atlantic Philanthropies, the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs' Reconciliation Fund and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. The Centre also raises a significant proportion of its income through sponsorship and selling its research and consultancy services to government and other agencies.

Controversy about relations between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland tends to obscure the broad consensus that exists in both jurisdictions about the value of cross-border co-operation on practical issues. This holds that the low level of contact and communication across the Irish border damages the well-being of both parts of the island, and there is a clear need to identify and overcome the present barriers to understanding and co-operation.

Purpose

The pragmatic view, that co-operation should take place where it brings real benefits to both parts of the island, is weakened by an additional factor: there has been too little research to date on how this practical co-operation is to be achieved. The Centre for Cross Border Studies – itself a unique expression of cross-border co-operation – provides an objective, university-based setting for policy research into and development of such co-operation.

The Centre is a policy research and development institute, whose purpose is to:

- Identify gaps in cross-border information, research and mutual learning in Ireland;
- Commission and publish research on issues related to opportunities for and obstacles to cross border co-operation in all fields of society and the economy;
- Host events at which research findings can be discussed and disseminated, and at which policy formation in the area of cross border co-operation can be developed;
- Present the findings of such research and development projects to the EU, the two governments, the Northern Ireland Executive, employer, trade union and social partnership bodies, and the wider public.
- Manage cross-border programmes and organisations which have a strong education and research dimension.

Current Research Projects

The Centre is currently working on four EU-funded educational 'action research' projects:

- **'Pride of our Place': a cross-border environmental project for primary schools**

This three-year project (2002-2005) brings together 10-12 year olds from a group of primary schools in the border regions of both jurisdictions to study a key environmental feature in their locality by looking at it historically and geographically, and then exploring it in the company of their cross-border partner schools.



- **Citizenship and Science Exchange (CaSE): an 'action research' project for secondary schools**

This is a 30-month project (2003-2005) involving 12-14 years olds which aims to deepen understanding of 'citizen science' subjects such as pollution and nutrition in both jurisdictions. It centres on a shared Web resource, joint curriculum materials and regular meetings between participating teachers.

- **The North-South Student Teacher Exchange Project**

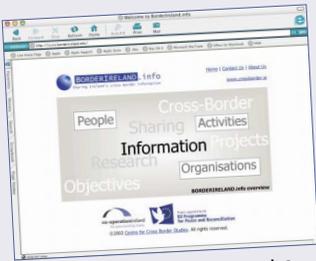
This three-year project (2002-2005) brings together students from seven colleges of education in Belfast, Dublin and Limerick to study and do teaching practice in the other jurisdiction. It is based on the belief that young teachers have a key role in overcoming prejudice and misunderstanding.

- **A research project into Diversity and Early Years Education**

This two-year study (2003-2004) is researching the difficulties facing teachers and children in areas of conflict and diversity on both sides of the Irish border with a view to developing a framework to be used in all institutions, North and South, involved in preparing teachers to work with very young children.

BORDERIRELAND.INFO

The Centre is engaged in a three-year (2003-2005) EU-funded project to develop an online central access point for information on cross-border issues in Ireland. BorderIreland.info will provide free access to an online searchable database of all cross-border information in the areas of Education, Health, Agriculture, Transport, Environment and Tourism. The system will act as a one-stop shop for researchers, policy makers, community workers, business people and the general public providing, for the first time, an electronic gateway



to the full range of cross-border research material, publications, funding opportunities and other information available in Ireland, North

and South. It will feature research summaries which are easy to read and understand, with an emphasis on policy relevance. It will provide e-mail addresses, telephone and fax numbers, hyperlinks and information about source materials to improve the flow of knowledge and interchange on cross-border issues between information generators and information users. The Centre's research manager, Dr Patricia Clarke, will lead a small team to bring this project to fruition.

The Centre is also currently involved in two research projects on **the environment and the economy**, North and South:

- **Local Agenda 21 in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.**

This study by a team from Queen's University Belfast and Motherway Begley Ltd Dublin compares the state of implementation of Local Agenda 21 sustainable development programmes and projects in both parts of Ireland. It explores how Local Agenda 21 can contribute to a new and invigorated relationship between local government and citizens

through local sustainability strategies, and the potential for North-South collaboration in such strategies.

Publication date: Spring 2004

- **The Impact on Northern Ireland Business of the Republic of Ireland's introduction of the Euro**

This study (in partnership with InterTradeIreland) covers a number of related subjects, including the euro's impact on a range of Northern Irish firms of different sizes; its particular effects on border region Small and Medium Enterprises; and its impact on the Northern Ireland retail trade. The study's methodology includes a comprehensive e-mail survey of Northern firms and case studies of a cross-section of those companies.

Publication date: Spring 2004

The Centre is also a partner in two major cross-border research projects beginning in 2004:

- **Mapping Frontiers, Plotting Pathways: Routes to North-South Co-operation in a Divided Island**

This is a two-year collaborative project, commissioned by the Higher Education Authority in the Republic, between University College Dublin (Institute for British-Irish Studies and Institute for the Study of Social Change), Queen's University Belfast (Institute of Governance and Centre for International Borders Research), the Centre for Cross Border Studies and Democratic

Dialogue. The Centre will contribute a mapping study and database of the extensive but fragmented programmes and projects aimed at promoting cross-border co-operation since the mid-1980s. This will include programmes funded by the EU PEACE and INTERREG Programmes, the International Fund for Ireland, the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and a range of charitable foundations.

- **Europe for Patients**

The Centre, through its research associate Dr Jim Jamison, is collaborating with research institutes in Britain, Spain, France, Belgium, Slovenia and Estonia in the EU Sixth Framework-funded Europe for Patients research project. The aim of this project is to enhance the ability of patients across the EU to benefit from the potential health care advantages created by an increasingly integrated Europe.

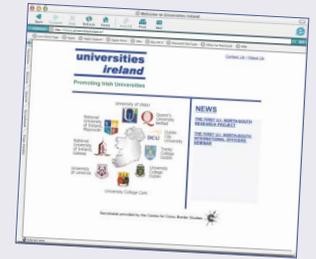
Also in 2004 the Centre plans to commission a two-year study on **the experience of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in the areas of human rights, equality and 'good relations'**, and how the lessons learned might be useful to other police services in Britain and the Republic of Ireland.

- **Current Management Projects**

- **Universities Ireland**

The Centre acts as the secretariat for Universities Ireland, set up to promote co-operation and collaboration between the nine

universities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and to enhance their reputations internationally. Its first chairman is Professor Gerry McKenna, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ulster.



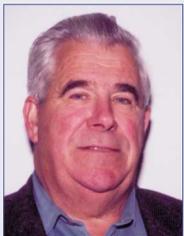
The new organisation was launched by the university presidents in July 2003 and will undertake work in a number of designated areas. These include:

- Research projects to improve North-South inter-university co-operation, e.g. on the harmonisation of regulations
- Conferences on matters of common interest to universities on the island, e.g. e-learning
- Work on 'branding' the Irish universities abroad, and improving the island of Ireland's profile in the international student recruitment market
- Development of university-industry links, technology and research transfer on an 'island of Ireland' basis
- Development of a website: www.universitiesireland.ie

Universities Ireland is funded by an annual levy paid by the nine universities, and by grants from the Department of Education and Science in Dublin, the Department for Employment

and Learning in Belfast and InterTradelreland in Newry. Universities Ireland's first research project, starting in January 2004, will be on the feasibility of harmonising regulations, awarding joint degrees and developing credit transfer arrangements between the nine universities on the island. These areas have been identified by UI as potential mechanisms for working towards its stated goal of improved inter-university co-operation across the island in the context of developing the island's position in the European and global knowledge economy, and specifically in the context of the emerging European Higher Education Area (the Bologna Process). The research will be carried out by Lewis Purser, a senior official of the European University Association.

Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS)



The Centre also acts as the secretariat for the Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South. This was set up in early 2003 by a group of senior teacher education specialists from colleges of education and other teacher education agencies in both jurisdictions. The joint chairs of SCoTENS are Professor John



Coolahan, Professor of Education at National University of Ireland Maynooth and Professor Anne Moran, Professor of Education at the University of Ulster at Jordanstown.

SCoTENS held a major conference in Malahide, Co Dublin, in October 2003 under the title 'Challenges to Teacher Education and Research, North and South', with a keynote address from Mr David Istance of the OECD Centre for Educational Research and Innovation in Paris.

It has also provided funding for all-island conferences on social, scientific and environmental education, initial teacher education, citizenship education and special educational needs; and for North-South research projects on continuing professional development and profound and multiple learning difficulties.

A SCoTENS website, overseen by Dr Roger Austin of the University of Ulster, has been set up at www.socsci.ulst.ac.uk/education/scte highlighting, in particular, resources on special education.

SCoTENS is funded by annual grants from the Department of Education and Science and the Department of Education (Northern Ireland).

Completed Research Projects

In its initial phase, the Centre commissioned 11 cross-border research projects in the fields of telecommunications developments, health services, disadvantage in education, EU funding programmes, local government links, mental health promotion, waste management policies, local history societies, animal health, sustainable development and the euro.

These projects involved researchers drawn from 11 universities, colleges and independent research centres in Ireland and Britain: Queen's University Belfast, University of Ulster, University College Dublin, National University of Ireland Galway, National University of Ireland Maynooth, St Patrick's College Drumcondra, the Institute of Public Administration, Belfast City Hospital, Dundalk Institute of Technology and the Centre for Cross Border Studies itself.

The Centre has published the following research projects:

The Evolution of Telecom Technologies: Current Trends and Near-Future Implications

A number of case studies of developments in mobile and wireless telephony across the Irish border from a research team led by two of Ireland's leading specialists in information retrieval, data analysis and image and signal processing: Professor Fionn Murtagh of Queen's University Belfast and Dr John Keating of National University of Ireland Maynooth. The

project was sponsored by eircom. Among the project's outcomes are:

- The first comprehensive analysis of cross-border 'roaming' and other mobile phone charges in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland
- The creation of a unique online system – www.B4Ucall.com - to allow consumers to monitor the cost of mobile phone calls on the island of Ireland



Cross-Border Co-operation in Health Services in Ireland

A study of the past, present and potential for future co-operation in health services across the Irish border by a research team led by Dr Jim Jamison, formerly director of the Health and Social Care Research Unit at Queen's University Belfast, and including Professor Martin McKee of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Dr Ciaran O'Neill of the University of Ulster, and Ms Michelle Butler of the Institute of Public Administration in Dublin. Among the study's recommendations are:



- A thorough assessment of the potential for co-operation in specialist hospital services such as heart, lung and other transplants, paediatric cardiac surgery and renal dialysis
- An assessment of how emergency services close to the border might be improved by greater collaboration.

Ireland's Learning Poor: Adult Educational Disadvantage and Cross-Border Co-operation

A study of the needs of the more than a million people on the island who left school with few or no qualifications by Dr Mark Morgan of St Patrick's College and the Educational Research Centre, Drumcondra, and Mr Paul McGill, formerly education correspondent of the Belfast Telegraph. They conclude that current policies in both jurisdictions, by

concentrating on largely middle-class school leavers, are "far removed from the vision of lifelong learning, where people of all ages and social classes drop in and out of education and training on an equal basis." Among the report's recommendations are:

- A North-South fund to encourage co-operation between Northern further education colleges and Southern institutes of technology,

with special provision for community education groups

- A framework to develop the UK University for Industry/learnirect programme in the South, with joint learning centres along the border.

Creating Living Institutions: EU Cross-Border Co-operation after the Good Friday Agreement

A study by Professor Brigid Laffan and Dr Diane Payne of the Institute for British-Irish Studies at University College Dublin, which analyses the interaction between the new North-South Institutions set up under the Good Friday Agreement – notably the North/South Ministerial Council and the Special EU Programmes Body - and the EU's funding programme for cross-border co-operation, INTERREG. Among the report's conclusions are:

- Despite the crisis-prone nature of the peace process, the North-South institutions set up under the Good Friday Agreement "have the capacity to deliver the objective of routine public policy making between North and South."
- The greatest potential for the Special EU Programmes Body to play an all-island role lies in the Common Chapter of the two jurisdictions' 2000-2006 development plans.



Cross-Border Co-operation in Local Government: Models of Management, Development and Reconciliation

A study by Professor Derek Birrell and Amanda Hayes of the University of

Ulster of the different kinds of cross border links between local authorities, including one-to-one linkages, local government cross border networks, and cross border partnerships involving other agencies. It also analyses the project management methods

used, the views of the councillors involved and the involvement of the European Union. Among the study's findings are:

- The most advanced model of cross border co-operation in this sector is the three local authority networks known as the Border Corridor Groups, which have received significant EU funding from the INTERREG III programme.
- Given the mismatch in functions between local authorities, North and South, the partnership model (which includes community groups, business groups, trade unions and statutory agencies) is particularly useful.

The Foot-and-Mouth Disease Crisis and the Irish Border

A study of the cross-border dimension of the 2001 foot-and-mouth disease



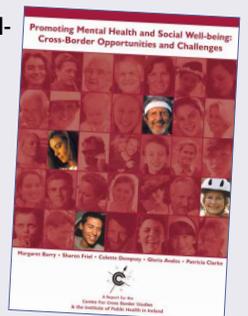
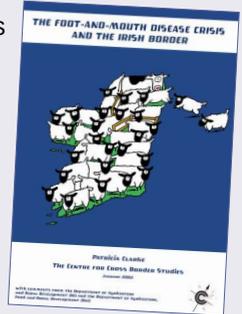
outbreak by the Centre's research manager, Dr Patricia Clarke, with comments from the Departments of Agriculture in Belfast and Dublin. Issued exactly a year after the original outbreak in England, the report's findings were praised by the two Ministers, Brid Rodgers and Joe Walsh, as "extremely valuable" in helping the Departments to formulate actions to deal with animal health emergencies. Among the report's conclusions were:

- The most successful way to avoid such emergencies in future is to utilise "the natural water barrier around the island by moving towards an all-Ireland animal health system."
- The convening of an all-island Expert Advisory Group, modelled on the successful group set up in the Republic, should be considered in any future emergency situation.

Promoting Mental Health and Social Well-being:

Cross-Border Opportunities and Challenges

This is a two-part study by a team from National University of Ireland Galway led by Dr Margaret Barry and



Ms Sharon Friel. It examines a number of cross-border projects in the areas of postnatal depression, public awareness of suicide, cancer support services, the mental health of young men and mental health in rural communities. The study also looks at the comparability and compatibility of mental health data sources in the two jurisdictions. Among the report's recommendations are:

- The establishment of an all-island Mental Health Promotion Steering Group to develop mental health promotion in a co-ordinated fashion and avoid unnecessary duplication.
- The creation of an all-island information exchange mechanism and discussion forum in this area, including a live data base of mental health promotion activities in the Republic similar to that already produced in Northern Ireland.

Commissioned Studies and Evaluations

The Centre has carried out **studies and evaluations for government and other public agencies**. These have included:

- A 'scoping study' of North-South School, Teacher and Youth Exchanges, for the Department of Education (Bangor) and the Department of Education and Science (Dublin).
- An evaluation of the Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) cross-border network of health boards and trusts, for CAWT.

- A study into the feasibility of extending University for Industry/learnirect to the Republic of Ireland, for University for Industry.
- A preliminary study of the bureaucratic and other obstacles hindering the movement of people across the border to live and work, for the North/South Ministerial Council.
- A report on public feedback to the PriceWaterhouseCoopers/Indecon Obstacles to Mobility study, for the NSMC.
- 'Towards a Strategic Economic and Business Research Agenda for the island of Ireland', for InterTradeIreland
- A Review of Cross-Border Mobility Information Provisions in the South of Ireland, for the North/South Mobility Information Group
- An Evaluation of the Education for Reconciliation Project (Year One) for the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee.

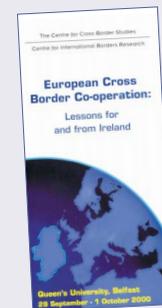
Seminars and Study Days

The Centre holds regular seminars and study days in Armagh and Dublin to examine strategic areas of interest to North-South policy makers. These bring together groups of policy makers, senior practitioners and academics to discuss a research paper prepared by the Centre under the chairmanship of a distinguished authority in the field. As the Centre's research programme has developed, these seminars have moved from studying broad policy fields to

examining more focussed areas which have been the subject of specific research projects. Cross-border seminars and study days have been organised in the following areas:

- Agriculture
- Education
- Tourism
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Health Services
- Mental Health Promotion
- Developments in Telecom Technologies
- Local government links
- Foot and Mouth disease
- School, Youth and Teacher Exchanges
- European citizenship education
- The euro
- Business research
- The North-South Consultative Forum

Conferences



In the autumn of 2000 the Centre hosted – jointly with the Centre for International Borders Research (CIBR) at Queen's University Belfast – an international conference under the title **'European Cross Border Co-operation: Lessons for and from Ireland.'** This major conference was opened by the Irish President, Mary McAleese, and was addressed by a wide range of distinguished speakers, including the First Minister of

Northern Ireland, David Trimble; the Deputy First Minister, Seamus Mallon; the RUC Chief Constable, Sir Ronnie Flanagan; the head of the EU's cross-border INTERREG programme, Esben Poulsen; the international emergency communications expert, Professor Edward Johnson; Ambassador Hermann von Richthofen of the German-Polish Governmental Commission; and SDLP leader John Hume. Participants came from 13 countries to discuss cross border co-operation in five areas: administrative institutions, security and policing, business and the economy, the environment, and culture and the arts.

The Centre has also been asked to organise a series of North-South conferences on aspects of higher education on behalf of the Department for Employment and Learning (Belfast) and the Department of Education and Science (Dublin). The first of these, in October 2002 in Armagh, was on **'Ireland as a Centre of Excellence in Third Level Education.'** This conference, which was attended by the presidents of seven of the nine universities on the island of Ireland, was addressed by several world authorities on higher education. These included Professor Malcolm Skilbeck, the OECD's former Deputy Director for Education; former US Secretary of Education, Richard Riley; the Director-General for Education and Culture in the European Commission, Nikolaus van der Pas, and the Chief Executive of the English Higher Education Funding Council, Sir Howard Newby.

In May 2003, a second conference was held in Cavan on **'International Education: A Capacity Builder for the Island of Ireland?'** The keynote speakers were Lindy Hyam, Chief Executive of IDP Education Australia, a world leader in international education and development services, and Neil Kemp, director of the Education UK Division of the British Council. The conference was chaired by Sir George Quigley.

In November 2003, a third conference was held in Belfast on **'Widening Access to Third Level Education on the Island of Ireland: Towards Better Policy and Practice'**. The keynote speakers were Dr Arnold Mitchem, President of the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington DC, a champion of access to higher education for low income and disabled Americans for 35 years,

and Samuel Isaacs, Executive Officer of the South African Qualifications Authority.

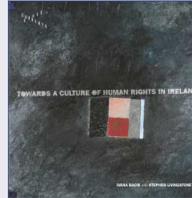
A fourth conference, to be held in Cavan in May 2004, will examine examples of good practice in cross-border higher education elsewhere in Europe, notably in the Oresund region of Denmark and southern Sweden; the EUCOR network between French, German and Swiss universities in the Upper Rhine region; and the ALMA

initiative involving universities in the Dutch-German-Belgian border region.

Publications

In May 2001 the Centre published, in association with Cork University Press, a series of short books containing essays by leading writers on key issues of interest to both Irish jurisdictions:

- *Multi-Culturalism: the View from the Two Irelands* by Edna Longley and Declan Kiberd, with a foreword by President Mary McAleese
- *Can the Celtic Tiger cross the Irish Border?* by John Bradley and Esmond Birnie, with a foreword by Peter Sutherland
- *Towards a Culture of Human Rights in Ireland* by Ivana Bacik and Stephen Livingstone, with a foreword by Mary Robinson



What they say

The Irish Government has been hugely impressed by the work of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. It has in a very short time become a key focal point of analysis and debate for matters which impact upon the North/South relationship on the island of Ireland.
Irish Foreign Minister, Brian Cowen TD

President McAleese paid tribute to the "mould breaking" Centre for Cross Border Studies which opened a year ago in Armagh.

The Irish Times, 30 September 2000

Ignorance has marred relations between Ireland, North and South, but the Centre for Cross Border Studies is seeking common ground on both sides of the divide.

The Times Higher Education Supplement, 8 February 2001

The Centre for Cross Border Studies is an important initiative and I wish all involved every success in their work.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson

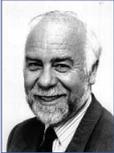
The Centre is a new and important locus for dedicated research on an all-island basis. As the Joint Secretariat of the North/South Ministerial Council, we greatly appreciate the good work being done across several fields by the Centre and look forward to working closely with it in the period ahead.

Tim O'Connor and Dick Mackenzie, NSMC Joint Secretaries

The Centre is considered to be dynamic, entrepreneurial, value for money, effective, independent, credible, non-partisan, producing reports which are substantial and strike the right tone...Its work is valuable and recognised as a vital adjunct to the political settlement achieved over the past four years...The Centre has been right to focus on practical issues of co-operation in a pragmatic way and this has brought on

board a significant element of unionist thinking... Many commented on the remarkable volume of output in a short period with only limited funding... As it moves from experimental phase to maturity, the centre has a bright future.
2002 Independent Evaluation (Brian Harvey)

Board Members and Staff



Chris Gibson

Dr Chris Gibson OBE, pro-chancellor, Queen's University, Belfast; chairman, Northern Ireland Civic Forum; joint chairman, Confederation of British Industry/Irish Business and Employers Confederation Joint Business Council (chairman)



Pauric Travers

Dr Pauric Travers, president, St Patrick's College of Education, Drumcondra (vice-chairman)



Andy Pollak

Dr Jane Wilde, director, the Institute for Public Health in Ireland

Professor Liam O'Dowd, director of the Centre for International Borders Research and professor of sociology at Queen's University, Belfast

Paul Nolan, director, Institute of Lifelong Learning, Queen's University, Belfast



Patricia Clarke

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Mairéad Hughes

Harriet Andrews, careers officer, Dundalk Institute of Technology

Colm McGivern, deputy director, Workers Educational Association (Northern Ireland)

Dr Eileen Connolly, lecturer in politics, Dublin City University

The director of the Centre is **Andy Pollak**, formerly religion and education correspondent of *The Irish Times*, and in the early 1990s co-ordinator of the Opsahl Commission.

Its research manager is **Dr Patricia Clarke**, formerly a senior researcher with the London Ambulance Service, and its communications leader is **Joe Shiels**, a former software developer with Fujitsu and consultant with PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The Centre's administrator is **Mairéad Hughes** and its administrative assistant is **Patricia McAllister**.