Cross-Border Training and Impact Assessment in Ireland and Europe: An International Conference

Radisson Blu Farnham Estate Hotel, Cavan
27th-28th October 2011

Opening speaker:
Lucinda Creighton TD, Irish Minister of State for European Affairs.
Programme

Thursday 27 October 2011
Redwood Suite, Radisson Blu Farnham Estate Hotel, Cavan

Chair: Mr Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, Special EU Programmes Body, Belfast

9.15 Registration and refreshment, Redwood Suite Reception Area
9.45 Opening remarks by Mr Colgan
10.00 Official Opening by Irish Minister of State for European Affairs, Ms Lucinda Creighton TD
10.20 Cross-border training and impact assessment in Ireland: Mr Andy Pollak and Ms Ruth Taillon, Director and Deputy Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies, Armagh
10.40 The Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network (TEIN): Dr Joachim Beck, Director, Euro-Institut, Kehl, Germany
11.00 Coffee
11.30 Parallel ‘good practice’ workshops. These 45 minute long workshops will be repeated so that each conference participant has a choice of attending two workshops.

Chair: Ms Helen Johnston, Chair, Centre for Cross Border Studies

1. Cooperation and Working Together (CAWT) – health training in the Irish border region: led by Ms Linda Sauderson and Mr. Lawrence McGrath, CAWT, Derry
2. Tradelinks – business mentoring in the Irish border region: led by Mr Kieran Mathers, Trade Links, NI/R/D
3. Raising the participation of women in public life: women’s capacity building in N.W. Ireland and Scotland: led by Ms Noreen Clancy, Women into Public Life, Donegal
4. EuroSchola – teacher training in the Czech-Polish border region: led by Mr. Ihynek Bohm, EuroSchola, Tinec, Czech Republic
5. The inter-cultural dimension in cross-border training in the Upper Rhine: led by Ms Anne Thivenet, Deputy Director, Euro-Institut, Kehl
12.00 Lunch in the Botanica Restaurant
12.15 The challenges of training and evaluation for European Territorial Cooperation programmes: Mr Tomasz Pawlowski, KomInfra, INTERACT Point, Viborg, Denmark
2.30 European achievements and challenges in cross-border training and higher education: led by Mr Andy Pollak, Deputy Director, International Centre for Local and Regional Development, Armagh
1. Cross-border local authority training in Ireland: Ms Caroline Creamer, Deputy Director, International Centre for Local and Regional Development, Armagh
2. Higher education and research cooperation between France, Germany and Switzerland: Professor Jean-Alain Héraud, Professor of Economics, University of Strasbourg, France
3. Beyond needs analysis in the Slovenia-Carinthia-Friuli region: Professor Stanka Setnikar-Cankar, Chair of Economics and Public Sector Management, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; Dr Elmar Knoppitsch, Lecturer, Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Austria; Ms Milena Grion, Forstler (formazione e servizi per la pubblica amministrazione), ANO, Italy

Questions and discussion
Close
Reception
Conference dinner with Irish traditional music and dancing

Friday 28 October 2011
Redwood Suite, Radisson Blu Farnham Estate Hotel, Cavan

Chair: Ms Lucinda Creighton TD, Irish Minister of State for European Affairs

Dr José Antonio Ruíz de Casas, Programme Manager, EU policies of European Transnational and Interregional Cooperation, DG REGIO, European Commission, Brussels (Cross-border training and impact assessment: a view from the European Commission
First respondent: Mr Martin Guillermo Ramirez, Secretary General, Association of European Border Regions
Second respondent: Professor Michel Castegnato, University of Pau and the Pays d’Audois, France (Launch of the Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross-border Cooperation by Dr Ruíz de Casas – with contributions from its principal authors, Ms Ruth Taillon, Centre for Cross Border Studies and Mr. Sebastian Rihm, Euro-Institut)

Refresher break
Round table discussion with panel: Dr Ruíz de Casas, Mr. Jim Higgins MEP, Ms Marian Harkin MEP and Mr Shaun Henry (Director of Programmes, Special EU Programmes Body, Belfast) with contributions from the floor
Closing remarks by Ms Marian Harkin MEP
Lunch
Afternoon excursion to Newgrange

Conference Speakers and Chairpersons

Mr Pat Colgan joined the Special EU Programmes Body in Belfast as Chief Executive in 2004. Prior to his appointment he had been involved in the design, delivery and evaluation of EU-funded programmes in the EU Member States for the previous 10 years. He came to the SEPBS from Vienna where he worked for the Austrian Institute for Spatial Planning and Regional Development. During his time there he was responsible for evaluating the efficiency of the implementation of Structural Funds in all the EU Member States. He also had overall responsibility for the INTRINACT Programme. He had previously worked with government departments in a number of the new Member States and accession countries such as Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Croatia and Slovenia. He is a member of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) Expert Group set up by the EU’s Committee of the Regions.

Mr Ruth Taillon is Deputy Director (Research) at the Centre for Cross Border Studies. Since she joined the Centre in 2009 she has completed a research project on The Role of Community Involvement in Hospital Planning in the Irish Border Region and is joint author of the Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross-Border Cooperation in Ireland, which will be launched at this conference. She has many years’ experience as a researcher and evaluator working with a range of public and community-based organisations in both Irish jurisdictions. Before joining CBSS, Ruth was Research Coordinator for TIME Action (formerly ADM/CPAI), where she had responsibility for commissioning and supervising thematic evaluations of projects funded through the EU PEACE Programme, drafting Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines for funded projects and developing quality control procedures for assessing individual project evaluations. Before that she worked as an independent researcher and evaluation consultant, specialising in gender, equality and peace conflict issues.

Dr Joachim Beck has been Director of the Franco-German Euro Institute in Kehl, near Strasbourg (www.euroinstitut.org) since 2006. Before joining the Head Public Management at the Swiss-based consultancy firm PRONIDOS AG and, in the TriNaRes Foundation director of the Euro Institute in Kehl, and, Locally providing cross-border research information, he has written and co-edited several books on public management and cross-border cooperation and administrative culture in Europe.

Ms Lucinda Creighton TD is the Irish Minister of State for European Affairs. She was elected as a Fine Gael Dublin City Councilor for the Penrose electoral area in 2004. She qualified as a barrister before being elected to Dáil Éireann as its youngest member in 2007. She has served as Fine Gael spokesperson on European Affairs, as a member of the Joint Oireachtas (Parliamentary) Committee on European Affairs, as a member of the Joint Oireachtas (Parliamentary) Committee on European Scrutiny, as Chairperson of a Parliamentary Sub-committee on the role of the Oireachtas in European Affairs, as Fine Gael spokesperson on Immigration, Integration and Equality, and as a member of the Joint Oireachtas (Parliamentary) Committee on Justice, Defence and Women’s Rights. She is also a former Vice-President for Youth of the European People’s Party. She was re-elected to Dáil Éireann in 2011 and was appointed Minister of State for European Affairs by the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny.

Ms Andy Pollak is founding Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies (with offices in Armagh and Dublin), and Secretary of Universities Ireland and the Standing Conference on Teacher Education North and South (SCoTENS). Now over 12 years old, the Centre researches, develops and provides management support for a wide range of cooperation programmes and projects between Ireland and Northern Ireland in education and training, health, ICT, the economy, public administration and other practical areas. Andy is a former religious affairs correspondent, education correspondent, assistant news editor and Belfast reporter with the Irish Times. In the early 1990s he was co-ordinator of the Opsahl Commission, an independent ‘citizens inquiry’ into ways forward for Northern Ireland, and editor of its Report, A Citizens Inquiry.

Ms Linda Sauderson is a trained Registered General Nurse who has worked in several specialties including Cardiology, General Medicine and Accident and Emergency. In 1986 she was appointed as a Sister in Accident and Emergency in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, and in 1994 she moved to the Erne Hospital in Eniskillen in 1993 as the Sister in Accident and Emergency there. In 2000 she became Clinical Services Manager in Serrin Lakeland Trust and in 2007 Assistant Director of Emergency Care and Medicine in the Western Health and Social Care Trust. She is currently on secondment to the Cooperation and Working Together (CAWT) cross-border network of health authorities as Programme Director.
**Mr. Lawrence McGrath** is a trained Registered General Nurse who qualified as a Nurse Tutor in 1980. He was Director of Nursing Education and Associate Director of Nursing Administration in King Fahd University Hospital in Saudi Arabia from 1982–1988, and worked as Deputy Director of Nursing at Al AIN University Hospital in the United Arab Emirates from 1989–1996. On his return to the UK he became an Associate Lecturer in the University of Ulster. From 2000 to 2007 he was Senior Nurse at the Ernle Hospital in Enniskillen. During this period, Larry was Executive Director of Nursing (temporary) during the hospital trust’s reorganisation. He then became General Manager (Accident and Emergency and Unscheduled Care) for the Western NHS Trust trust’s reorganisation. He was Executive Director of Nursing (temporary) during the hospital trust’s reorganisation. He then became General Manager (Accident and Emergency and Unscheduled Care) for the Western NHS Trust.

**Mr. Vyniek Bohm** is Project Manager and Vice-Chairman of EuroSchoola, which works in the Czech-Polish-Slovak border region. He has been involved mainly in developing and implementing cross-border projects in the fields of training, human resource development and project development for the public administration and education sectors. He has also been overseeing the work leading to the establishment of the new ETCO (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation) TRITA in the region. This will focus on cross-border transport and infrastructure, economic cooperation, tourism and energy.

**Ms. Anne Thevenet** has been Deputy Director of the Euro-Institut since 2007. She holds a Diploma in Political sciences, a Masters in European studies and a Masters in management, and has worked in the German Parliament and in cross-border cooperation in the Czech-Slovak-Hungarian border. As Deputy Director of the Euro-Institut, she is in charge of developing projects with funders and the development of new strategies, as well as the delivery and management of cross-border projects in fields such as regional planning and economic development. She also lectures on cross-border issues at universities in the Upper Rhine region. An important part of her job consists of developing relations with other border regions. Since 2010 she has coordinated the Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network (TEIN), which brings together centres and institutes of Territorial Cooperation in 10 different European border regions.

**Ms. Norin Clancy** is Coordinator of Women into Public Life (WPL), a cross-border partnership between three European regions of Ulster (Northern Ireland), Friesland (Second Chance Education Project for Women), Derry/Londonderry (Foilte Women’s Information Network) and Scotland (Engender). Donegal County Council is the lead partner. Based in Lifford, the aim of WPL is to address the under-representation of women in public life. WPL is funded by the INTERREG IVa Programme and supported by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Before coming to WPL, Norin worked with the National Women’s Council of Ireland and the Women’s Human Rights Alliance where she coordinated the production of a shadow report to the UN CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women Committee on the Irish Government’s compliance with CEDAW.

**Mr. Tomasz Petrykowski** is Project Manager and Vice-Chairman of EuroSchoola, which works in the Czech-Polish-Slovak border region. He has been involved mainly in developing and implementing cross-border projects in the fields of training, human resource development and project development for the public administration and education sectors. He has also been overseeing the work leading to the establishment of the new ETCO (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation) TRITA in the region. This will focus on cross-border transport and infrastructure, economic cooperation, tourism and energy.

**Ms. Carolinne Eeraert** is a Research Fellow with the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA), NUI Maynooth and Deputy Director of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD). Her research experience and interests include regional and local development and regeneration, spatial planning practice and policy, collaborative working and participative decision-making, and inter-territorial and cross-border development. She holds a Diploma in Environmental Resources Management from Dublin Institute of Technology, an MA in Geography from NUI Maynooth, an MA in Town and Country Planning from University of the West of England / Open University and is currently a part-time PhD candidate in NUI Maynooth.

**Professor Jean-Alain Héraud** is Professor of Economics at the University of Strasbourg; head of its Faculty of Economics and Management Science, and a member of the research institute BETA (joint lab UDS-CNRS). His research activities are mostly in the field of the economics of innovation and research policy studies. He specialises in the territorial aspects of science and innovation policies. He has led several European research projects within the BETA on subjects like science and technology regional convergence; technological foresight in a multi-level context, and the multi-level and multi-actor governance of science policy. For the past three years he has been in charge of the scientific “pillar” for the French part of the tri-national trans-border Upper Rhine metropolitan (i.e. Alsace) region. His most recent research orientations have focused on the concept of creative territories.

**Ms. Milena Grion** studied economic and finance as an undergraduate and took a Masters in international business. During each year she studied at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam she worked for many years in the export department of a large European company. She worked for many years in the export department of a large European company. She studied for several years the Forst Postformen e. S. (company for the forest sector) and the Forst Postformen e. S. (company for the forest sector) and took a Masters in International Business. She spent time lecturing at the University of Ulster and the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences and worked as a researcher at the Northern Ireland Assembly. Since her return to Austria, Milena has been working as a Lecturer and researcher for the School of Management at Carinthia University of Applied Sciences. She teaches courses on intercultural Communication and doing business in South East and Central Europe, and is involved in several cross-border projects. Her research interests lie in intercultural dynamics and cross-border cooperation within a broader European context.
Dr. José Antonio Ruiz de Casas is the Programme Manager, EU policies of European Transnational and Interregional Cooperation, at DG REGIO in the European Commission in Brussels. He is a Spanish diplomat who has worked in Uruguay, Buenos Aires, Gambia and in the Department for European Affairs in the Spanish Foreign Affairs Ministry. He holds Doctorates in Sociology and Public Law and Political Theory from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. He has also held a doctoral fellowship at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts and been a visiting researcher at Boston University. He holds a Masters in Urban Planning from Universidad Carlos III in Madrid.

Mr. Sebastian Rhim works for the Euro-Institut in Kehl as an assistant for studies. He is member of the project team which developed the Impact Assessment Toolkit for practical cross-border cooperation in Ireland together with Centre for Cross Border Studies Deputy Director Ruth Tassion and the Euro-Institut Director Joachim Beck. Mr. Rhim holds an MA in European Administration from the Universities of Applied Sciences in Ludwigsburg and Kehl and a Diploma in Public Administration with a specialisation in social insurance – from the University of Applied Sciences in Ludwigsburg.

Ms Helen Johnston is Chair of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. In her day job she is a Senior Social Policy Analyst at the Irish National Economic and Social Council (INESC) in Dublin. She authored the NESC report Well-being Matters – How was successfully hosted at the Irish Combat Poverty Agency where she was Director for six years and Head of Research for eight years. During her time with Combat Poverty, she was involved in implementation of the EU PEACE Programme, with Pobal, in the Border Counties. A native of Northern Ireland, Helen worked in the Northern Ireland Civil Service in the early years of her career. She has qualifications in environmental science, town and country planning, business administration and is currently pursuing a doctorate in governance.

Mr. Martin Guillermo Ramirez has been Secretary General of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), with its headquarters in Gronau on the German-Dutch border, since 2006. A native of Argentina, he holds a bachiller’s degree in Medicine and Surgery and a Masters in Humanitarian Medicine. After finishing his medical studies he was elected second-mandatary and Co-operation Secretary of the Socialist Youth of Spain, and was also a member of the bureau of ECOYV (European Young Socialists). From 1999 to 2006 he worked as an inspector at the Regional Government of Extremadura, especially in the areas of cooperation for development, international relations and health and welfare policies. He was Chief of the Cabinet at the Regional Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Advisor in the Cabinet of the President, and Regional Secretary for International Co-operation. The Association of European Border Regions was founded in 1971 and represents more than one hundred border and cross-border regions in Europe in their relations with the EU institutions, the Member States and the Council of Europe.

Professor Michel Castelgois is an Inspector General of Public Administration in France and Associate Professor at the University of Pau and des Pays d’Adour in south-west France. He is the founding president of the Euro-Institute of Kehl and has wide experience – both from a practical and an academic perspective – of cross-border cooperation in Europe. He has published several books and numerous articles on questions of cross-border cooperation policy-making and is currently developing a multidisciplinary research approach within the Transfrontier Euro-Institute Network (TEIN).

Mr. Jim Higgins MEP has been a Fine Gael Member of the European Parliament for the North-West Ireland constituency since 2004, and was re-elected in 2009. A member of Mayo County Council from 1979 to 1995, he was elected to Dáil Éireann in 1987, and re-elected in 1989, 1992 and 1997. He was appointed a Minister of State at the Department of Finance and later Minister of State at the Department of Justice, Department of Defence and Government Chief Whip. As Fine Gael’s Justice, Equality and Law Reform Spokesman he brought the Dáil’s attention to the ‘Sheedy Affair’ which led to the forced resignation of judges from the High Court and the Supreme Court. He also raised allegations of Garda corruption in counties Donegal and Derry which led to the establishment of the Morris Tribunal of Inquiry. In the European Parliament isim is a Member of the Committee on Transport and Tourism and a Substitute Member of the Committee on Fisheries.

Ms Marian Harkin MEP has been an Independent Member of the European Parliament for the North-West Ireland constituency since 2004. She is a graduate of University College Dublin and taught maths in a school in Sligo for 22 years. Her interest in voluntary and community affairs provided her with a lifelong involvement in and respect for what can be achieved in the voluntary sector. She is a former Chairwoman of the Council for the West and was responsible for the campaign which led to the retention of Objective 1 Status for the west of Ireland. Additionally, her presidency of the Council of the West was the creation of the Western Development Commission which has been very effective in encouraging employment and in attracting people to live and work in areas which had difficulty in attracting economic investment. In 2008 Marian won a seat to represent Sligo/Leitrim in Dáil Éireann, and was elected an MEP two years later. In her work in the European Parliament she has had a particular interest in issues to do with volunteering and care.

Mr. Shaun Henry has been working with the Special EU Programmes Body since 2002. During the programme period 2000-2006 he was Director of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme (PEACE II) and the INTERREG IBA Programme. He was seconded as Director of Regional Development in Romania in 2007-2009 to advise on the implementation of EU Structural Funds. Following his return to Dublin in 2009, Shaun was appointed as the Director of the Managing Authority for the PEACE II and INTERREG IVA Programmes. Before his employment with the SEUPB he worked in the Rural Development Council in Northern Ireland and had the experience of working in East Africa for two years with Ireland Aid (under the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs) and for five years with Concern Worldwide. He has a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture, a Masters in Forestry and an MBA in Business Administration.

TEIN members come together to (among other things) exchange good practice of cross-border cooperation in their regions; work on joint projects such as impact assessment toolkits and toolkits for training cross-border cooperation project managers; work to ensure that the latest cross-border cooperation policy papers are disseminated to European institutions, governments, regional administrations and other key actors; and guarantee the quality of cross-border training in Europe by working to develop a unified certification system.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

This toolkit, developed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies together with the Euro-Institut in Kehl, Germany – and again funded by the EU INTERREG programme (managed by the SEUPB) – will be launched at this conference. While it has been developed specifically for the INEREG Programme in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, it is intended that the methodology it uses can be easily adapted to other cross-border regions of Europe.

In the past EU-funded cross-border programme and project promoters have often found it difficult to demonstrate impact, i.e., the changes that were taking place as a result of the activities undertaken. The Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross-Border Cooperation can help to define and clearly explain which of the programme or project is likely to contribute to these changes. Many problems of Northern Ireland and the Irish border region do not respect jurisdictional boundaries. The toolkit will help to determine whether a cross-border approach is the appropriate level of intervention and, if so, to identify the ‘added value’ of such cooperation.

It will identify whether the proposed activities could have a greater overall impact – socially, economically or environmentally – if undertaken on a cross-border basis rather than separately within each jurisdiction. For example, will new relationships be built between people or organisations that would not have developed otherwise? Will the cross-border activities lead to new ways of working or more intensive collaboration that would not have been carried out separately? Will a cross-border approach be more efficient and/or effective than a single jurisdiction approach?
CONTACTS

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Sat Nav co-ordinates for Farnham Estate:
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Longitude 7°23.983’ W

Farnham Estate is located four kilometres from Cavan Town (on the R 198)
and is 90 minutes drive from Dublin and two hours drive from Belfast.

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