

**Centre for  
Cross Border Studies**

**Annual Report 2017**

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## **Our Vision**

The Centre for Cross Border Studies will build further upon its reputation as an authoritative advocate for cross-border cooperation and a valued source of research, information and support for collaboration across borders on the island of Ireland, Europe and beyond.

## **Our Mission**

The Centre for Cross Border Studies empowers citizens and builds capacity and capability for cooperation across sectors and jurisdictional boundaries on the island of Ireland and further afield. This mission is achieved through research, expertise, partnership and experience in a wide range of cross-border practices and concerns.

## **Our Values**

The Centre for Cross Border Studies:

- Is committed to the principles of partnership, equality and mutual respect as the basis of relationships between people and governments;
- Is dedicated to contributing to social cohesion, economic development and environmental sustainability through cross-border cooperation on the island of Ireland and beyond;
- Is independent and takes no position on the constitutional question;
- Supports the protection of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights and advocates the core values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, peace-building and social justice; and
- Acts in recognition of the fundamental importance of non-partisanship, the pursuit of excellence, openness and transparency, and the value of local experience.



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Cross Border Studies**

**Annual Report  
2017**

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## INTRODUCTION

**As in the previous year, the focus for the Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS) in 2017 was on “building and maintaining relationships within, across and beyond these islands” following the UK Referendum on withdrawal from the EU. This was the theme of our Annual Conference on 23-24 February, opened by Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan TD and featuring a keynote address by Michael Russell MSP, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland’s Place in Europe. Our annual conference has become an important event for those involved in working across borders and we were pleased to be able to welcome speakers and participants from these islands and beyond our shores to Armagh.**

Since then, CCBS has been engaged on an almost daily basis with other organisations on the island of Ireland, the UK and in Europe to ensure that the social, political and economic implications of Brexit for the island of Ireland are understood by citizens and decision-makers. The Irish Government’s ongoing All-Island Civic Dialogue events were continued throughout the year and the Centre participated in sectoral seminars on Enterprise Skills Needs, Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Human Rights and the Good Friday Agreement and the North West Region as well as Plenaries in February and September. CCBS Director, Ruth Taillon was a panellist at a Sectoral Dialogue hosted by the Department of Health in September. CCBS staff acted as rapporteurs for the sectoral dialogue event in July hosted by the Departments of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and Education and Skills. Ruth also acted as a workshop facilitator at the Plenary session in February at which Deputy Director, Dr Anthony Soares was a rapporteur.

Additionally, the Centre was invited and presented testimony to the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly; the Oireachtas Committee on Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht; the Bureau of the Various Interests Groups of the European Economic and Social Committee; and the House of Lords EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee.

Likewise, the Centre’s growing reputation as an authoritative voice on all things Brexit and the island of Ireland was reflected in the many requests to speak at numerous Brexit events hosted by academic institutions, business bodies, political parties and third sector organisations. There were also numerous interviews and information

requests from Irish, UK and international press and broadcast outlets throughout the year. It is a reputation that has been built on the foundations of the production of evidence and analysis and shared through our own policy seminars aimed at policy- and decision-makers and our briefing papers and reports and the Centre’s social media platforms.

Although the shadow of Brexit has loomed large over the Centre’s work this year, we have nevertheless devoted significant time and other resources to fostering our relationships with colleagues at other European borders, internal and external. The Transfrontier Euro Institute Network (TEIN), of which CCBS is a founding partner, continues to be an important vehicle for sharing learning. In June, CCBS hosted a study visit as part of the *Platform for Cross-Border Dialogue* project, involving TEIN partners from the Poland-Czech Republic, France-Germany and the France-Spain (Catalonia) borders at which we shared our experience of cross-border cooperation and peacebuilding. The project aims to create a positive change in Czech-Polish relations related to the historical and political context of Cieszyn Silesia. The project is based upon the use of innovative methods of cooperation to develop solutions for cross-border problems that are a legacy of historical political or ethnical/national conflict.

The Centre has also been involved in a Jean Monnet project, led by another TEIN partner, the University of Strasbourg. *Conflicts and Cooperations in the Border Regions of the EU* involves the exchange of experiences and debate on the role of the border in the European

integration process and in cross-border cooperation. The project consists of a comparative analysis of conflicts and cooperations in eight cross-border regions: Upper Rhine (France, Germany, Switzerland); Mont Blanc (France, Switzerland, Italy); Manche and the Eurometropole Lille (France, Belgium, UK) Ireland/Northern Ireland; Cieszyn (Czech Republic, Poland); Viadrina (Germany, Poland); Catalonia (Spain, France, Andorra) and the Slovenia/Austria/Italy cross-border region. A seminar in November 2017 focussed on Ireland/Northern Ireland and the Catalan region. It is planned to develop an *Encyclopédie des conflits et coopérations aux frontières de l'UE*, a reference for students of European and International Studies and for cross-border practitioners that will include a chapter on the Ireland/Northern Ireland border region.

In October, TEIN and its associated partners the MOT, CESCO and DG Regio/European Commission hosted a workshop as part of the European Week of the Regions and Cities: *Enhancing Capacities of Regions and Cities for Better Cross-Border Cooperation*.

CCBS Policy Seminars and Public Lectures this year also had a specific focus on maintaining and building on cross-border and transnational relations in the post-Brexit context. In May, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on EU Affairs hosted our seminar in Leinster House, *Models of Cross-Border Cooperation for a Post-Brexit Context*, which featured speakers from the Norway-Sweden border and the French Ambassador for Transboundary Cooperation. The Spring Lecture, held in partnership with the Robinson Library in Armagh, took an historical approach. Prof Aidan O'Sullivan from UCD School of Archaeology spoke on *How did people in early medieval Ireland live together?* Returning to the present day, our guest speaker for the second annual George Quigley Memorial Lecture in June was Prof José Luis Iparraguirre, Chief Economist at Age UK. At the CCBS annual talk for the John Hewitt Summer School, Dominique Jan Searle, Gibraltar Representative to the UK talked about the human and political factors of the UK's dispute with Spain

and how the future management of the frontier is critical for Gibraltar's population. *Healing, Learning and Citizens' Rights: Crossing Borders* was the theme of this year's CCBS policy seminar at the office of the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU in Brussels in October, at which Judith Thompson, Commissioner for Victims and Survivors, outlined how the Commission was working with victims of the conflict and Kevin Hanratty, Director of the Human Rights Consortium, stressed the need for retention, protection or replication of EU derived rights. He also reminded listeners of the explicit references to the EU in the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and the Northern Ireland Act. In November, the Centre, along with the Sweden-Norway 2014-2020 INTERREG Programme and the SEUPB, organised a visit by a delegation of over 20 local and regional politicians from the Norway-Sweden border region; a policy seminar on the future of cross-border cooperation post-2020/post-Brexit was part of the programme. Also in November, CCBS and the Centre on Constitutional Change hosted a 'Chatham House' event, *Reconfiguring UK-EU Borders: Facing up to the challenges of Brexit* at the University of Edinburgh. Prof Duncan Morrow presented our Winter Lecture, *A problem to every solution? Hard borders, reconciliation and Ireland's ethnic frontier* and launched the 2017 edition of our *Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland* in December.

Building relationships further afield, the Centre was delighted to welcome a delegation of young leaders from the South Caucasus to Armagh in June. The visit was organised by the Causeway Institute for Peace-building and Conflict Resolution International (CIPCR). Closer to home, CCBS Director, Ruth Taillon was one of the speakers at the launch of the *InSight* initiative that will explore the visual, natural and personal connections between South West Scotland, the Isle of Man, Cumbria and Northern Ireland/Ireland. It is anticipated that the *InSight* initiative will be the framework for future 'cultural dialogue' events between the different regions/jurisdictions linked by the Irish Sea.

Although constrained by limited funding, the production of innovative and high-quality research remains a priority for CCBS. We have continued our intensive work on Brexit, with research being undertaken in order to update statistical evidence provided in the Briefing Papers published in the run-up to the 2016 referendum and to garner other evidence relevant to cross-border relations. CCBS has also undertaken significant analysis of the negotiating documents produced by the UK and Irish Governments, as well as the various EU institutions.

In September, Dr Anthony Soares, Deputy Director, presented the findings from an ongoing Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust funded project, *Towards a New Common Chapter*. This project has been assessing the extent to which cross-border cooperation is independently valued and enacted at the grassroots level, and whether communities are setting their own priorities for inclusion in regional and local strategies on both sides of the border. Anthony's contribution to the 2017 edition of the *Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland* sets out an overview of the project and includes the text of *A New Common Chapter for cooperation within and between these islands* drafted by participating groups at the end of the second stage of the project.

The Centre continues to contribute to government policy objectives on both sides of the border. For example, CCBS Director Ruth Taillon chairs the *Graduating to Success – Cross-border Project Team* in support of the Department for the Economy's Higher Education Strategy for Northern Ireland. She is also a member of the Northern Ireland Commission for Victims and Survivors Research Advisory Group and the Oversight Group for the Irish Government's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

We also continue to respond to public policy consultations relevant to cross-border cooperation. Our contribution to the European Citizens' Initiative in August relates to and was informed by our work on citizen engagement in cross-border cooperation. The submission on the Juncker *White Paper on the Future of Europe* was an opportunity

for CCBS to signal its continued participation in the development of the EU and its programme of work. Having already submitted evidence to this inquiry previously, CCBS made a submission in November to the re-opening of the House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee inquiry into the land border.

Following agreement at the North-South Social Innovation Network Steering Committee meeting in March that a workshop on best practice in Social Innovation cooperation should be organised, an event related to the justice sector was held on 12 June in Loughan House (an Irish Prison Service facility). Over 50 people attended the event, representing Justice Departments, services, agencies and NGOs from both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland. The event was also used to launch the Social Innovation mapping project the Network is supporting.

Through the Border People project, CCBS has continued to develop its work in support of cross-border mobility through provision of information, training and policy analysis. Early in the year, the project developed and delivered a new cross-border training programme for advisors located on both sides of the border. In March, Border People and the European Citizens Action Service based in Brussels jointly hosted a seminar to highlight how potential Brexit scenarios will impact on citizens. The Border People website contains over 500 pages and thousands of links to external sources. The UK's exit from the EU will impact significantly on this content. A complete overhaul of information and considerable technical redevelopment has now started (with support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Reconciliation Fund) to keep pace with the anticipated changes in legislation affecting citizens' rights, entitlements and obligations. The Advisory Group continues to focus on two key issues: the cross-border implications of Brexit and of Welfare Reform in Northern Ireland.

CCBS has continued to provide secretariat services to two important cross-border networks: Universities Ireland and the Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS).



The 2017 CCBS Annual Conference

The SCoTENS fifteenth Annual Conference, *Educational innovation – the challenge of evidence-informed change*, took place in Dundalk in October. The SCoTENS Steering Committee used the conference as an opportunity to gather evidence from delegates that will feed into a new qualitative evaluation of the network. SCoTENS provides ‘seed funding’ for cross-border research projects related to teacher education and this year supported nine projects with a total allocation of £34,000. CCBS also administers the annual North-South Student Teacher Exchange on behalf of SCoTENS.

In support of Universities Ireland, CCBS administers the North/South Postgraduate Scholarships and the Universities Ireland History Bursaries. The History Bursaries along with the annual History Conference comprise the *Reflecting on a Decade of War and Revolution in Ireland 1912-1923* programme that commenced in 2012. This year’s conference, on the theme *Propaganda and Mobilisation* on 18 November, was the sixth in the Decade of Centenaries series. An important element of the Centre’s work on behalf of Universities Ireland is coordination of the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Irish section. In early November, SAR hosted an event, *Academic Freedom in Turbulent Times* at Maynooth University that heard from Syrian, Iranian and Turkish scholars who are now working in European universities.

To help us meet the challenges of delivering this busy workload, the Centre was pleased to welcome Mark McClatchey, who joined CCBS in April as Administrative Assistant and Dr Milena Komarova

who joined CCBS in June as CCBS Research Officer. The Centre was also pleased to provide placements through the Erasmus+ Programme for Martina Radova from the Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic and Tobias Heyduk from the University of Applied Sciences in Kehl, Germany.

The Centre for Cross Border Studies will certainly continue to look outwards – to both share our experiences and expertise with and learn from our partners within, across and beyond these islands – whatever challenges the future holds.

#### **CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF PROF PADDY JOHNSTON**

The Centre for Cross Border Studies was deeply saddened to learn in June of the untimely death of Professor Patrick Johnston, vice-chancellor of Queen’s University Belfast (a founding member institute of the Centre). In his time as vice-chancellor, Professor Johnston was very supportive of the work of the Centre and was a very valued council member of Universities Ireland, a network of the 10 universities on the island of Ireland, which is administered by the Centre.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Professor Johnston’s wife and sons, wider family circle, friends and colleagues.

## TARGETS

Our Workplan for 2017, agreed with our core funders, the Department of Education and Skills, set out a number of output targets to be achieved. All targets were met or exceeded with the exception of two which were partially achieved: one research seminar was held (target two) and there were 35 issues of Gov Watch published online (target 48).

### TARGET: 1 Annual Conference (100 participants)

#### TARGET ACHIEVED: 1 Annual Conference (97 participants)

23/24 Feb: Building and maintaining relationships: within, across and beyond these islands after the Referendum

### TARGET: 1 in-house / commissioned research projects / reports completed

#### TARGET EXCEEDED: 3 research projects / reports completed

- Towards a New Common Chapter (Stage 2) report completed
- The negotiations for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union
- Cross-border Student Mobility in Third Level Education: an update

### TARGET: 1 report on postgraduate student flows

#### TARGET ACHIEVED:

1 report on postgraduate student flows Review of paper on Southern Irish Postgraduates in Northern Ireland submitted to the Department of Education and Skills

### TARGET: 2 research dissemination/policy seminars (50 participants x 2)

#### TARGET PARTIALLY ACHIEVED: 1 research dissemination seminar

11 Sept *Towards a New Common Chapter*

### TARGET: 6 seminars (total 240 participants)

#### TARGET ACHIEVED: 4 seminars for public representatives and officials (Stormont, Oireachtas, Holyrood, Brussels) on cross-border policy and practice and 2 Border People seminars on cross-border mobility issues

28 Mar *5 Takeaways on Brexit: Outlining Possible Scenarios for a New UK-EU Relationship and their Impact on Citizens*

16 May *Models of Cross-Border Cooperation for a Post-Brexit Context*

10 Oct *Healing, Learning and Citizens' Rights: Crossing Borders*

16 Nov *Cross-Border Functional Regions: Perspectives from Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scandinavia / Sweden-Norway Study Visit*

16 Nov *Cross-border Implications of Northern Ireland Welfare Reform*

20 Nov *Implications of Brexit for the Borders between the UK and EU*

### TARGET: 6 submissions to government and EU public policy consultations

#### TARGET EXCEEDED: 6 written submissions, participation in All-Island Civic Dialogue and meeting with Task Force 50

18 Jan Response to Belfast Peace IV Action Plan

3 Mar Submission to the House of Lords EU Select Committee Inquiry on Brexit and Devolution

10 May Oireachtas Joint Committee on Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (oral and written evidence)

11 Aug EU Commission's public consultation on the European Citizens' Initiative

17 Nov House of Lords EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee inquiry into Brexit and reciprocal healthcare (oral and written evidence)

17 Nov House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee inquiry into the land border

### All-Island Civic Dialogue

30 Jan All-Island Civic Dialogue: Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

13 Feb All-Island Civic Dialogue: Human Rights and the Good Friday Agreement

17 Feb All-Island Civic Dialogue: Final Plenary

3 July All-Island Civic Dialogue: Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and Department of Education and Skills (workshop rapporteurs)

8 Sept All-Island Civic Dialogue: Department of Health (panel member)

28 Sept All-Island Civic Dialogue Plenary

### Task Force 50

29 Nov Task Force for the Preparation and Conduct of the Negotiations with the United Kingdom under Article 50 TEU (TF50) (meeting)

### TARGET: 4 public lectures/events (160 participants)

#### TARGET ACHIEVED: 4 public lectures (161 participants)

16 May *How did people in early medieval Ireland live together?* (41 participants)

22 June *Economics: Helping to Make Us Human* (38 participants)

28 July *The Garlic Wall* (48 participants)

6 Dec *A problem to every solution? Hard borders, reconciliation and Ireland's ethnic frontier* (34 participants)

**TARGET: 6 Briefing Papers published online and in hard copy**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: 6 Briefing Papers**

5 July	Flexible and Imaginative solutions
9 Aug	Brexit and Economic Development (Update)
18 Aug	Response to the UK Government position paper: Northern Ireland and Ireland
11 Oct	Cross-border Student Mobility in Third Level Education: An Update
8 Nov	Brexit and UK-Ireland border: A Roadmap
Dec	#Brexit: areas of concern for users of the Border People project

**TARGET: Border People website hosted, updated and maintained**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: 4 Border People Advisory Meetings**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: 4 Advisory Group Meetings**

**TARGET: 1 Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: 1 Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland published**

**TARGET: Continued membership of Transfrontier Euro Institute Network**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

- TEIN Platform for Cross-Border Dialogue project
- Conflicts and Cooperations in the Border Regions of the EU (Jean Monnet project)
- Critical Dictionary on Cross Border Cooperation in Europe
- Seminar: Enhancing capacities of regions and cities for better cross-border cooperation
- DG Regio Open Days – October

**TARGET: Continued role as convener of North-South Innovation Network**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: CCBS website hosted, updated and maintained**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: 12 monthly Border-Zine electronic newsletters**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: 12 Border-Zine newsletters**

**TARGET: Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter profiles maintained**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: 48 issues of Gov Watch**

**TARGET PARTIALLY ACHIEVED: 35 issues of Gov Watch**

**TARGET: 48 issues of Media Watch**

**TARGET EXCEEDED: 51 issues of Media Watch**

**TARGET: 2 applications for project funding submitted**

**TARGET EXCEEDED: 8 applications submitted (3 successful)**

Title of Proposed Project	Funder/Amount Applied For	Approved Allocation
TEIN PLATFORM FOR CROSS-BORDER DIALOGUE	Micro-Project Fund of the INTERREG V-A Czech Republic-Poland within the Cieszyn Silesia Euroregion €5,272	€5,272
REDEVELOPMENT OF BORDER PEOPLE WEBSITE	DFAT Reconciliation Fund: €8,400	€8,400
MAPPING NORTH-SOUTH SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECTS	DFAT Reconciliation Fund €15,177.50	Declined
TREMIS: Traversing European borders: mobility, integration and security (University of Maastricht and others)	Horizon 2020	Declined
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS (with Cooperation Ireland)	Community Foundation NI €9,198	Declined
THE GFA: AN IMAGINATIVE AND FLEXIBLE SOLUTION TO THE CHALLENGE OF BREXIT	WA Cadbury Trust £28,000	Declined
BRINGING THE AGREEMENT HOME	DFAT Reconciliation Fund €30,025.46	€30,025.46
TERRITORIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION	€25,000	Decision Pending

**TARGET: 9 presentations/papers to external conferences and seminars**

**TARGET EXCEEDED: 23 presentations/papers to external conferences and seminars**

**Brexit Presentations**

- 23 Jan British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly Sub-Committee
- 23 Feb Stronger Together: Black and Ethnic Minority Voices in Shaping Post-Brexit Northern Ireland
- 22 Mar Belfast Festival of Ideas Brexit Panel
- 28 Mar ECAS/CCBS Event
- 30 Mar Cooperation Ireland Brexit Event
- 4 May DKIT School of Business and Humanities
- 10 May Joint Oireachtas Committee on Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht
- 15 Jun Human Rights Consortium Brexit Conference
- 20 Jun ECAS Brexit Conference, Brussels
- 23 Jun European Economic and Social Committee
- 11 July Fianna Fail (Brendan Smyth TD)
- 18 July Magill Summer School
- 22 Aug Sinn Fein (Martina Anderson MEP)
- 7 Sept University of Warwick
- 16 Sept William Carleton Summer School
- 19 Oct Middletown Centre for Autism
- 7 Nov Borders in Globalization Conference
- 10 Nov ITEM Annual Conference 'Fresh momentum for cross-border cooperation'
- 24Nov IMPACT/SIPTU Brexit Symposium
- 13 Dec Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

**Other Speaking Engagements**

- 3 May United Nations Association Northern Ireland
- 3 Jun Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival
- 13 Jun Briefing on Tax Implications for Cross Border Employers and Workers, EURES

**TARGET: Participation in relevant conferences and seminars – frequency and numbers determined by other bodies**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: 65 conferences, seminars and other events attended by CCBS staff**

**TARGET: Journal/press articles numbers determined by other bodies**

**TARGET ACHIEVED: 1 Journal article in RECERC Journal**

An article by Dr Anthony Soares, *Cooperation, Identity and Brexit at the Irish Border*, was published in RECERC Journal – Special Edition on “Cross-border Cooperation in Europe: Beyond the Scars of History”.

**TARGET: Press and media interviews numbers determined by other bodies**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

In 2017, CCBS Director Ruth Taillon and Deputy Director Dr Anthony Soares were interviewed on at least 40 occasions for local, national and international press and media outlets from as far away as North America, China and Japan.

**TARGET: Continued membership of European Citizen Access Service**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: CCBS Annual Report 2016**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: 4 Quarterly progress reports to CCBS Board**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

**TARGET: Reports to funders as required**

**TARGET ACHIEVED**

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Centre for Cross Border Studies' 2017 Annual Conference, ***Building and maintaining relationships: within, across and beyond these islands after the Referendum***, took place at the Armagh City Hotel on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 February 2017.



Those familiar with the work of the Centre will be aware that over the past few years we have given increased attention to building relationships and fostering new alliances with other cross-border cooperators in Britain, Europe and beyond. Our annual conference has become an important event for those involved in working across borders and we were pleased to be able to welcome speakers and participants from these islands and beyond our shores to Armagh. In particular, we were delighted that Mr Charlie Flanagan, TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade was able to address the conference on Thursday afternoon.

In her introduction to the conference programme, CCBS Director Ruth Taillon explained the rationale for this year's conference theme:

*"... despite the many uncertainties that face us as a result of the UK's decision to exit the EU and other economic and political challenges confronting our small island, it is essential and urgent that we begin to chart a path forward after Article 50 is invoked; and indeed after Brexit – whatever "Brexit" means. As we face the prospect of our island being divided by an external EU border, we can expect new challenges. We are likely to see greater divergence in public policies and priorities on*

*Colin Stutt, Dr Katy Hayward, Dr Anthony Soares, Dr Helen Johnston, Michael Curran, Minister Charlie Flanagan TD, Trevor Holmes, Ruth Taillon, Philip McDonagh*





Dr Steve Aiken MLA, Prof Janice Morphet, Prof Jon Tonge, Dr Helen Johnston and Prof Brandon Hamber

*either side of the border where until now the trend has been towards convergence....*

*“As the UK Government moves closer to the decisive notification of Article 50, it is essential that we take steps to ensure that the assurances given that leaving the EU does not mean turning away from Europe are realised. ... The Centre for Cross Border Studies will certainly continue to look outwards – to both share our experiences and expertise with and learn from our partners within, across and beyond these islands – whatever challenges the future holds.”*

Following a welcome from CCBS Chairperson, Dr Helen Johnston, our first keynote speaker, Prof Jon Tonge, Professor of Politics at the University of

Liverpool spoke on *Imagining future relationships: within, across and beyond these islands.*

A panel discussion, *Building and maintaining future relationships: within, across and beyond these islands*, followed with Prof Janice Morphet, Visiting Professor, The Bartlett School of Planning, London City University; Prof Keith Shaw, Research and Innovation Lead Professor of Politics, Northumbria University; Dr Steve Aiken, OBE, Ulster Unionist Party; and Prof Brandon Hamber, Director, INCORE.

Conference was then addressed by Minister Charlie Flanagan TD, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

CCBS Information Manager Annmarie O’Kane with Philip McDonagh, CCBS Board Member



Tony Kennedy, CCBS Board Member



Pamela Arthurs, EBR and Colin Stutt, CCBS Board Member





*Dr Helen Johnston with members of the panel 'Building and maintaining future relationships: within, across and between these islands' – Prof Jon Tonge, Prof Janice Morphet, Dr Steve Aiken MLA and Prof Brandon Hamber.*

Ruth Taillon spoke on *Securing the future of cooperation: within, across and beyond these islands* and Tom Daly, Director General of Cooperation and Working Together reviewed and closed the day's proceedings.

Friday morning's session commenced with a keynote from Michael Russell MSP, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, speaking on *Securing the interests of the devolved regions in the 'Brexit' negotiations*.

The panel on the same topic, brought together Claire Hanna MLA, Social Democratic and Labour Party; Ms Martina Anderson MEP, Sinn Féin; and Dr Stephen Farry MLA, Alliance Party with Cllr Sean McPeake, President, Northern Ireland Local Government Association.

*Dr Anthony Soares, Ruth Taillon and Minister Charlie Flanagan TD*



The second panel on day two focused on *The challenges for education in shaping future relationships: within, across and beyond these islands*. Panellists were Alf Desire, Country Director (Ireland), British Council; Vincent Landers, Head of EU/International Unit, Department of Education and Skills; Dr Gareth Hetherington, Associate Director, Ulster University Economic Policy Centre; and Dr Noel Purdy, Director of Research and Scholarship, Head of Education Studies, Stranmillis University College.

Dr Anthony Soares, CCBS Deputy Director, was the final speaker in the morning, addressing the theme, *Citizens shaping the future of relationships: within, across and beyond these islands*. Friday afternoon opened with a panel on the same theme with representatives from civil society

*Mike Russell MSP, Dr Helen Johnston and Dr Anthony Soares*





Mike Russell MSP, Prof Duncan Morrow and Dr Stephen Farry MLA in conversation

organisations: Angela Graham, Director, Drum Development Association; Tara Farrell, Deputy CEO, Longford Women’s Link; and Linda Ervine, Project Leader, Skainos Centre, who each gave very personal reflections on their perceptions of Brexit.

The final keynote, *Moving forward after the Referendum*, by Prof Duncan Morrow, Director of Community Engagement, Ulster University talked about the challenge of ensuring that Brexit protects relationships and values the voices of communities like those represented by the preceding panellists.

*“For me the question isn’t the decision of a particular country or state to do one thing or another, it is what does it mean for the way we value each other? Do we turn each other into foreigners and enemies again, in this country, or*

*on this island or do we have to find a way that says, that may be what you wish to do but that’s not something that we can live with? ... We need to point out the risks and the possibilities and encourage that to be part of the negotiations. ... huge change is possible ... Don’t throw away what has been done ... bring it to the table and ask for it to be protected as a political task.”*

Conference was closed by CCBS Chairperson, Dr Helen Johnston.

For those who were unable to attend the conference or those who would like to re-live the experience, the full audio clips of the individual contributions from our guest speakers, as well as the question and answer sessions are available on the CCBS website: <http://crossborder.ie/2017-ccbs-annual-conference-2324-february-2017/>

Dr Katy Hayward, Mike Russell MSP, Claire Hanna MLA, Martina Anderson MEP, Cllr Sean McPeake and Dr Stephen Farry MLA





*Mike Russell MSP, Claire Hanna MLA, Dr Katy Hayward, Cllr Sean McPeake, Martina Anderson MEP and Dr Stephen Farry MLA*

*Vincent Landers, Trevor Holmes, Alf Desire and Dr Noel Purdy*



## RESEARCH

### Towards a New Common Chapter Project

The project's primary objective has been to develop a grassroots vision for cross-border cooperation engaging, in particular, with women's groups, Protestant community groups and young people on both sides of the Irish border. The project is intended to result in informed and motivated community organisations on the island of Ireland able to engage with policies and policy-makers on the value of cross-border cooperation; ensuring that it addresses the needs of civic society. Through this project CCBS is also creating the conditions at community level for independent engagement in cross-border initiatives.

An Evaluation Seminar in December 2016 concluded Stage 1 of the Towards a New Common Chapter project. The workshop allowed participants in the first stage to collectively assess the value of cross border co-operation including the specific benefits and challenges associated with it and the future of the project. Following discussion in plenary, participants reached a

consensus that the group wished to continue the work of the project.

Subsequently, an application for funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust was successful and Stage 2 of the project commenced in January 2017. This stage involved the drafting of a *New Common Chapter* by the participating groups:

- 50/50 Monaghan
- Country Armagh Community Development
- Craobh Rua
- Donegal Women's Network
- Drum Development Association
- Longford Women's Link
- Monaghan Women's Network
- Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network
- Northern Ireland Youth Forum
- Roscommon Women's Network
- South Armagh Rural Women's Network
- Women's Manifesto Project
- Women's Tec

*The findings of the Towards a New Common Chapter project were presented by CCBS Deputy Director, Dr Anthony Soares at a seminar on 11 September. The presentation of the findings was followed by discussion with Seamus McAleavey (Chief Executive, NICVA) and Deirdre Garvey (Chief Executive, The Wheel)*





Dr Anthony Soares with some of the participants in the Common Chapter project

**Project target:**  
**10 groups, 60 participants**

- 86 participants to date (core of 67)
- Geographical spread
- 25 male (29%), 61 female (71%)
- Average age 48.1 (down from 59.5)
- 37 “Protestant”, 41 Catholic
- 29 British, 51 Irish
- 59% resident in NI, 41% in ROI



**Participating Groups:**

- **Women’s Groups:** As ‘the under-representation of women [...] will continue to hamper progress in relation to peacebuilding and reconciliation’, CCBS sees the equal representation of women in developing the New Common Chapter as essential to shaping it in a way that addresses their concerns and hopes.
- **Protestant Community Groups:** With the participation of Protestant communities, the New Common Chapter will express a broad view of cooperation encompassing East-West and North-South relations.
- **Young People’s Groups:** Added after start of project. Initial groups concerned that they were speaking about young people, but not hearing from young people directly.



Stage 2 concluded on 16 June with agreement by all the participating groups on the draft of the *New Common Chapter*. Throughout the first half of the year, a number of workshops were held with the groups to develop the draft text, including two larger scale workshops before the final evaluation seminar that concluded Stage 2. During this phase, participants assessed the extent to which cross-border cooperation is independently valued and enacted at the grassroots level, and whether communities are setting their own priorities for inclusion in regional and local strategies on both sides of the border. As part of this process, the project also supported a residential for the young people's groups, which took place at East Coast Adventure (Rostrevor) on 12 May.

All the participating community groups endorsed *A New Common Chapter for Cooperation Within and Between these Islands*, which they had developed during this stage of the project.

A research seminar held in NICVA on 11 September drew a considerable audience of policy-makers, academics and practitioners. The seminar focused

on the commitment of grassroots community organisations to the idea of cross-border cooperation (in both its North-South and East-West dimensions), and it provoked a lengthy and lively discussion with the audience.

Slides from the presentation can be found on the CCBS website at:

<http://crossborder.ie/towards-a-new-common-chapter-assessing-the-commitment-to-cross-border-cooperation-among-grassroots-community-organisations/>

The third stage began in October 2017, with initial dissemination of the draft "New Common Chapter" undertaken through social media platforms in advance of 10 dissemination events that are planned between January and June 2018, where representatives from the participating groups will engage with other grassroots community groups, local and central governments, as well as other stakeholders from both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland, seeking their feedback on and endorsement for the New Common Chapter.

## A New Common Chapter for cooperation within and between these islands

### Introduction

The vision for cooperation within and between these islands by grassroots community organisations, as proposed below, was developed in the light of our critical engagement with what had been known as the "Common Chapter" following the 1998 Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, the devolved administration in Northern Ireland and its approval to a section on cooperation with the Republic of Ireland in the Northern Ireland Structural Fund Plan 2000-2006. The same text was contained in the Republic of Ireland's National Development Plan 2000-2006 in a section on cooperation with Northern Ireland. This replicated text – the "Common Chapter" – set out the two Governments' priorities for cooperation and how funds (particularly European Union funds) would be used to support it. It was understood that cross-border cooperation for the island of Ireland had three dimensions:

- cooperation along the border corridor and between Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland;
- North-South cooperation within the island of Ireland; and
- East-West cooperation between the island of Ireland and Great Britain, Europe and internationally.

Within the 2000-2006 period for which these plans were designed devolution in Northern Ireland was suspended, and following the restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2007 the Common Chapter was not revised.

What follows below, therefore, is the result of a sustained process of engagement by grassroots community organisations from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland with the notion of cross-border, North-South and East-West cooperation, which has led to a vision of such cooperation and what it should entail.

### A New Common Chapter

Replacing the "Common Chapter" on cross-border, North-South and East-West cooperation that existed in Ireland's National Development Plan and Northern Ireland's Structural Funds Plan, we hereby propose a *New Common Chapter FOR COOPERATION WITHIN AND BETWEEN THESE ISLANDS* by grassroots community organisations that promotes social justice and equality, but also:

- Acknowledging and respecting the differences that make these islands what they are, while also recognising and clarifying the relations between the communities that live in its different regions and regions;
- In the knowledge that we speak and treasure indigenous languages whose roots cross the borders within and between our islands;
- Recognising that faith traditions are organised and followed by communities within and across these islands;
- Valuing the musical, literary and other artistic traditions that have spread across the world and whose development has been assisted through relations within and between these islands;
- Realising that while we can compete against each other, sport and sporting organisations also unite us within and between these islands; and
- Recognising that our islands are connected by family bonds that cross the borders that separate them.

WE HEREBY PROPOSE A NEW COMMON CHAPTER FOR COOPERATION by grassroots community organisations within and between these islands which values how it can:

- Maintain family ties and friendships that cross borders;
- Allow for the cross-border sharing of local resources and services;
- Increase opportunities for the sharing of information, knowledge of policy and best-practice in the other jurisdictions, within our cross-border evidence-base, and improve policy-making by matching it to the realities on the ground and identifying cross-border opportunities;
- Promote sustainable cross-border friendly relations between communities that give insight into the views of those from the other jurisdictions, and allow for difficult conversations to be had;
- Promote a civil society that values diversity and in which there is the ability to disagree respectfully;
- Facilitate the exploration of a community's culture and heritage;
- Increase the protection and enjoyment of the environment;
- Encourage and develop community leadership;
- Contribute to our common safety and wellbeing:
  - Explore economic opportunities;
  - Recover tourism potential;
  - Advocate for improved coordination of regulations within and between these islands; and
  - Engage with and support the most isolated and marginalised in our communities.

### WE BELIEVE THAT FOR IT TO BE SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION WITHIN AND BETWEEN THESE ISLANDS MUST NOT:

- Be the unique preserve of any one government, agency, group or community;
- Be used for purely political purposes;
- Involve policies or projects imposed on communities and that are irrelevant to them;
- Operate on the basis of religious or cultural labelling, use assumptions about a community or group, or involve television or quantitatively-driven targets;
- Be short-term, short-sighted or unsustainable;
- Be driven by the need to achieve large impacts in a way that privileges the involvement of larger institutions and organisations and diminishes the value of micro-community initiatives and their potential to contribute to significant positive change;
- Be overly theoretical, complicated or dismissive of community-led approaches;
- Be funding-led; and
- Deny equality of opportunities to people with different religious belief, political opinion, of different racial groups, ages, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, with or without a disability, with dependants or without.

WE BELIEVE THAT GRASS-ROOTS COMMUNITY COOPERATION WITHIN AND BETWEEN THESE ISLANDS CAN USEFULLY ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

- Capacity-building for community leadership in cooperation, especially for young leaders;
- Improving the sustainability of community organisations and initiatives;
- Exploring the potential for cross-border tourism, especially rural tourism;
- Exploring histories and heritage that cross borders within and between these islands;
- Improving women's representation in decision-making structures;
- The provision of affordable, accessible quality childcare and social care support;
- The provision and support for gender equality proofing and gender budgeting;
- The provision of affordable, accessible and regular transport services, especially in rural areas and border regions;
- Facilitation of cross-jurisdictional educational opportunities, including through the removal of administrative obstacles between the jurisdictions;
- Increasing the value given to and the quality of vocational and non-university paths to careers; and
- Promotion and support for rural proofing and regionally balanced budgeting and resourcing.

WE HEREBY COMMEND THIS NEW COMMON CHAPTER FOR COOPERATION WITHIN AND BETWEEN THESE ISLANDS.



## The negotiations for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union

In August, CCBS published a report by Deputy Director, Dr Anthony Soares, evaluating how relations within the island of Ireland, and between the island of Ireland and Great Britain are framed within the approaches to the negotiations being taken by the main players involved, and suggests how to safeguard North-South and East-West relations in the post-Brexit context using the 1998 Belfast/Good Friday Agreement as a framework. This report forms part of the Centre for Cross Border Studies' ongoing work on Brexit, which has included a series of briefing papers and submissions to various relevant inquiries. The report begins by noting that the issues raised by the negotiations are complex and interrelated and that their ultimate impact on the future shape of relations within, between and beyond these islands cannot be determined definitively until the negotiations on the UK's withdrawal come to a conclusion. It goes on to outline the main points raised in the approaches to the negotiations published at the time of writing by the principal actors involved, before identifying common concerns and potential areas of divergence. Our analysis is based on the formal positions adopted prior to the commencement of negotiations, as well as the additional material supplied by the UK Government and the European Commission following the first two negotiating rounds. The report concludes by proposing some possible avenues to secure socio-economic relations between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and between the island of Ireland and Great Britain, as well as the extent to which these may be compatible with relations with the European Union.



The full report can be accessed at:

<http://crossborder.ie/site2015/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CCBS-Report-The-negotiations-for-the-UKs-withdrawal-from-the-European-Union1.pdf>

A briefing paper, *Flexible and Imaginative Solutions*, based on the research findings was previously published in July:

<http://crossborder.ie/the-centre-for-cross-border-studies-publishes-brexit-briefing-paper-flexible-and-imaginative-solutions/>

## Southern Irish Postgraduates in Northern Ireland

In December, CCBS Research Officer, Dr Milena Komarova carried out the ninth annual review of its January 2008 paper for the Department of Education and Skills on flows of Southern Irish

postgraduates to higher education institutions in Northern Ireland (previous annual reviews were carried out in December of each year from 2009 to 2016).

## Cross-border Student Mobility in Third Level Education: An Update

The movement of higher education students, staff and research funding between the two jurisdictions on the island of Ireland has been a focus of increasing political and academic interest throughout the period following the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. Cross-border student mobility in particular, is widely recognised as offering mutual economic, social and cultural benefits to those jurisdictions that enable it. Indeed, the Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS) has previously published a number of reports and briefing papers on cross-border mobility in third level education, as have other higher education institutions and authorities on the island.

However, as with all areas of public policy, it is vital to assess the causes and consequences of any changes or developments. We feel, therefore, that the present dynamic and uncertain context of the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union compels further examination of this issue. There is a need to understand the immediate and longer-term impact of Brexit on student mobility, particularly in order to boost the capacity of institutions North and South to accommodate any shifts, and to deliver services in higher education effectively.

The present paper by CCBS Research Officer, Dr Milena Komarova, offers both an overview and an update of our previous publications on cross-border student mobility in tertiary education. It further extends this discussion to include consideration of the new socio-political and economic context provided by Brexit. The paper discusses the rationale behind efforts to encourage cross-border student mobility to date. Second, on

*Brexit presents both challenges and opportunities to the development of cross-border student mobility in third level education, on the island of Ireland. The main challenges are broadly linked to the widespread level of uncertainty among both higher and further education institutions each side of the border, and among prospective students, regarding the accessibility of third-level education in the other jurisdiction after 2019. These questions are linked directly to the outcome of Brexit negotiations on issues such as citizens' rights, freedom of mobility, the Irish border and the UK's future relationship with the Republic of Ireland.*

the basis of the most up-to-date available statistics, it provides a brief summary of the state of cross-border student mobility in tertiary education between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It then outlines both 'traditional' and more recent factors influencing this mobility, and their likely effect in the immediate future. Finally, from a policy perspective, we elucidate a number of areas and recommend steps for future action.

The full paper is available on the CCBS website at: <http://crossborder.ie/cross-border-student-mobility-in-third-level-education-an-update/>

## POLICY SEMINARS

The 2017 CCBS Policy Seminars had a specific focus on maintaining and building on cross-border and transnational relations in the post-Brexit context.

28 MARCH

### Five Takeaways on Brexit: Outlining Possible Scenarios for a New UK-EU Relationship and their Impact on Citizens

On 28 March, the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) and the Centre for Cross Border Studies (Border People project) hosted a seminar to highlight how potential Brexit scenarios will impact on citizens. The workshop took place in Queen's University Belfast and was attended by 40 participants including academics, citizens' information and advice organisations, human rights organisations, migrants' rights organisations and business groups. Parts of the workshop were broadcast live and followed by over 300 viewers online.

The workshop was organised in the framework of the project 'Brexit Takeaways', which aims to raise awareness among citizens of the possible impact of different Brexit scenarios on their rights and advocate for the best possible deal for citizens. It was one of a series of events organised in London, Northern Ireland, Gibraltar and Belgium between February and June 2017 to discuss the findings of the ECAS study, which considers different Brexit scenarios and their impact on EU citizens' rights. The partners acknowledge the financial support of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.



Marta Pont (ECAS) presented the findings of ECAS' study. These include the right of entry and right to live and work in another EU country, the right to establish oneself professionally in another EU country, the right to non-discrimination and EU consumer and passenger rules, amongst others. The conclusion of her presentation was that there is no best alternative to EU membership under which all the different rights associated with EU citizenship can be fully secured.

Dr Anthony Soares, CCBS Deputy Director, looked into the special considerations of Brexit for Ireland and Northern Ireland. He paid particular attention to the Common Travel Area and the 1998

Marta Pont, presenting the findings of the ECAS study





*Seminar participants engaged in small group discussions*

Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and referred to the issues for workers who cross the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland on a daily basis. He also referred to the positive contribution of the EU to the peace process in Northern Ireland, encouraged not only through substantial funding for cooperation between Ireland and Northern Ireland, but also with the EU as co-guarantor of the Good Friday Agreement.

Daniel Holder, Deputy Director of the Committee on the Administration of Justice, focused on the implications of Brexit for human rights. He made the case that the EU referendum in the UK had actually been a plebiscite on immigration as a scapegoat for the economic problems of the country. He further said that the current UK government has a broader agenda beyond leaving the EU that is not particularly conducive to human rights protection. One of the demands made by Brexiteers, together with withdrawal from the EU, has been to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights and to repeal the implementing legislation at UK level.

Siobhan Duffy, Your Europe Advice legal expert, was the last speaker on the panel. The statement that ‘no deal is better than a bad deal’ could lead to the worst-case scenario, which, in her words, would be “catastrophic” for citizens. She also briefly referred to some of the main rights that EU citizens currently enjoy by virtue of their EU citizenship and concluded her presentation by stressing that the implications of Brexit for citizens are profound and it is up to citizens to make their voices heard to ensure that these rights, which have long been taken for granted, are not lost after Brexit.

After the speakers’ interventions, participants had the chance to discuss the points raised in small groups.

More at: <http://ecas.org/projects/brexit-takeaways/>

Missed the event? Check out some basic video recordings that were taken on the day:

[https://www.periscope.tv/ecas\\_europe/1ZkKzEAlvnoxv?](https://www.periscope.tv/ecas_europe/1ZkKzEAlvnoxv?)  
<https://www.periscope.tv/w/1YpJkdYjgzExj>

16 MAY

## **Models of Cross-Border Cooperation for a Post-Brexit Context**

Our seminar in Leinster House on 16 May, hosted by the Oireachtas Joint Committee on EU Affairs, attracted over 50 political representatives, officials and senior policy-makers from both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland, as well as the Swiss and Norwegian Ambassadors to Ireland and senior staff from the French Embassy in Dublin. This event featured speakers from the Norway-Sweden border and the French Ambassador for Transboundary Cooperation and was opened by

the Chairman of the Joint Committee on EU Affairs, Michael Healy-Rae TD. In his opening presentation, CCBS Deputy Director, Dr Anthony Soares explained that the aim of the event was to hear directly from those involved in and with responsibility for cooperation at the Norway-Sweden and French-Swiss borders about how cooperation takes place between an EU Member State and a non-EU country. This was not necessarily in order to replicate wholesale what

happens at those borders as cross-border cooperation at our own border faces the challenges of Brexit, but rather to learn from the speakers' experiences as we prepare for the post-Brexit context. A lively question and answer session followed the presentations by Erik Hagen (Programme Manager for the Sweden-Norway INTERREG A Programme), Annika Daisley (the Border Obstacles Project Manager at the Svinesundskommittén), and H.E. Maxime Lefebvre (France's Ambassador for Transboundary Cooperation).

<http://crossborder.ie/models-of-cross-border-cooperation-for-a-post-brexit-context-information-session-hosted-by-the-oireachtas-joint-committee-on-eu-affairs/>



Dr Anthony Soares, CCBS Deputy Director, setting the context for the seminar



H.E. Maxime Lefebvre, French Ambassador for Transboundary Cooperation, discussing French cooperation with Switzerland



Annika Daisley, Project Manager, Border Obstacles, discussing experiences in overcoming the obstacles on the Norway-Sweden border and opportunities available

10 OCT

## Healing, Learning and Citizens' Rights: Crossing Borders

*Healing, Learning and Citizens' Rights: Crossing Borders* was the theme of this year's CCBS policy seminar at the office of the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU in Brussels on 10 October. Despite a public transport strike, the event attracted more than 40 people. This was the third year that CCBS has organised a policy seminar in Brussels to coincide with the Committee of the Region's Open Days.

CCBS Director Ruth Taillon reminded the audience that the three priorities set out by the EU Commission for the exit negotiations with the UK

Government were all relevant to Ireland/Northern Ireland and interlinked. While much of the discussion about Ireland/Northern Ireland has been focused on the issues of the border, in fact citizens' rights and the UK's financial obligations are also extremely relevant for us. Judith Thompson, Commissioner for Victims and Survivors, outlined how the Commission was working with victims of the conflict, in particular through the Victims and Survivors Forum and with service providers addressing the psychosocial challenges affecting Victims and Survivors of the Troubles.

Kevin Hanratty, Director of the Human Rights Consortium, warned that Brexit is a clear threat to existing rights in Northern Ireland and stressed the need for retention, protection or replication of EU derived rights. He reminded listeners of the explicit references to the EU in the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and the Northern Ireland Act. In his presentation on Higher Education and Brexit, Ryan Feeney, Head of Public Engagement, Queen's University Belfast highlighted the contribution of Higher Education Institutions to the Northern Ireland economy. Dr Anthony Soares, Deputy Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies returned to the theme of the Good Friday Agreement "in all its parts". Dr Soares recalled the Agreement's three strands: relationships within Northern Ireland, within the island of Ireland and between the peoples of these islands "as friendly neighbours and as partners in the European Union". He went on to outline CCBS's proposals for the Good Friday Agreement as the framework for a "flexible and imaginative solution" to some of the challenges posed by Brexit for the island of Ireland.

<http://crossborder.ie/centre-for-cross-border-studies-policy-seminar-10th-october-2017-brussels/>



*Speakers at the seminar at the Irish Representation Office, Brussels on 10 October 2017*



*Kevin Hanratty, Human Rights Consortium*

16 NOV

## **Cross-Border Functional Regions: Perspectives from Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scandinavia / Sweden-Norway Study Visit**

In November, CCBS, the Sweden-Norway INTERREG Programme and the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) organised a study visit by a delegation of almost 30 local and regional politicians from the Norway-Sweden border region. The overarching purpose of the visit was to provide political representatives from Norway and Sweden an opportunity to discover how INTERREG funding has assisted economic development in the Ireland/Northern Ireland border region. As part of the programme, the Swedish and Norwegian representatives took part in a policy seminar and discussion in Armagh's Market Place Theatre on 16 November on the future of cross-border cooperation (post-2020/post-Brexit). The event brought together international and local experts on cross-border cooperation, as well as a range of policy-makers and local government

representatives from both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland to discuss and exchange views on the issues facing their border regions.

The seminar was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Alderman Gareth Wilson. Guest speaker, Prof Eduardo Medeiros, from the University of Lisbon, explained the concept of a functional territory and the challenges and opportunities for cross-border regions as functional territories. The rest of the morning session was dedicated to expanding on Prof Medeiros's overview with presentations from Martin Guillermo Ramirez, General Secretary of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR); Garry Martin, Head of Finance and Director of Emergency Services and Information Systems, Donegal County Council; and Prof Bjørnar Sæther of the Eastern Norway Research Institute.



Ruth Taillon, speaking on 'Cross-border Cooperation, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation' at the 16 November seminar in Armagh's Market Place Theatre

The afternoon's session was dedicated to "Cross-border cooperation between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland – past, present and future". SEUPB Chief Executive, Gina McIntyre, spoke about the EU's INTERREG A and PEACE programmes, giving examples of how past and current projects have developed cross-border cooperation between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and outlining future possibilities. The issue of using EU funding for cross-border cooperation continued in presentations by Pamela Arthurs, Chief Executive of EBR, and Shane Campbell, Chief Executive of ICBAN. CCBS Director Ruth Taillon gave a brief background of the Northern Ireland/Ireland border before explaining the challenges which the border regions could now be facing in the upcoming months and post-Brexit.

<http://crossborder.ie/cross-border-functional-regions-perspectives-from-ireland-northern-ireland-and-scandinavia/>

Exchanging gifts



16 NOV

## Cross-border Implications of Northern Ireland Welfare Reform

A well-attended event hosted jointly in Omagh by the CCBS Border People project and the Law Centre NI provided an overview on the cross-border implications of Northern Ireland welfare reform. Lee Hatton of the Law Centre NI explained the complicated changes and highlighted a number of

complex issues that are being experienced by cross-border workers and their families. A number of problems related to the roll-out of Universal Credit were raised, including the fact that cross-border workers will be entitled to only certain elements of Universal Credit. Questions were

Lee Hatton of the Law Centre NI addressing the seminar



raised about how real time income information will deal with Irish earnings and whether or not the Irish benefits system will treat Universal Credit as income. Potential problems with the online system were also highlighted, such as whether the online Verify system will work for claimants based in Ireland. (Currently a UK postcode is needed to start

an online claim.) Among other issues that remain to be answered is how the system will deal with Irish photo ID; will an Irish passport and/or a Northern Ireland driving licence be accepted? It was agreed by both organisers and participants that many questions remain unanswered and that additional seminars will be required.

20 NOV

## Implications of Brexit for the Borders between the UK and EU

CCBS and the Centre on Constitutional Change jointly organised a successful policy seminar at Edinburgh University on 20 November. Bringing together a number of officials from the Scottish Government, the European Commission representation in Edinburgh, the Consul-General of Ireland in Scotland, and representatives from the British-Irish Council and Scottish Parliament, the seminar considered the implications of Brexit for the borders between the UK and EU, and on possible models to maintain post-Brexit cross-border social and economic relations within and between the island of Ireland and Great Britain, and between these islands and the EU. Proposals relating to the island of Ireland were put forward by Manufacturing NI, represented by its Chief Executive, Stephen Kelly; Conor Patterson of Newry and Mourne Cooperative and Enterprise Agency; Prof James Anderson of Queen's University Belfast; and by Dr Anthony Soares and Ruth Taillon on



behalf of CCBS. Discussions revolved around the themes of the overall UK-EU border (led by Kirsty Hughes, Director of the Scottish Centre on European Relations); the UK 'Single Market' and the All-Island market (led by Michael Keating, Director of the Centre on Constitutional Change); and alternative futures (led by Nicola McEwen, Associate Director of the Centre on Constitutional Change).

<http://crossborder.ie/policy-seminar-edinburgh-jointly-organised-ccbs-centre-constitutional-change/>

## CONTRIBUTING TO PUBLIC POLICY AND PRACTICE

In 2017, the Centre for Cross Border Studies engaged with national, regional and local government and other statutory bodies in Ireland north and south, Britain and with the EU Commission. While Brexit continues to be a key focus, the Centre's expertise in diverse areas such as cross-border cooperation and peacebuilding is valued by policy-makers. CCBS made a number of formal written and oral submissions to parliamentary inquiries in Ireland and the UK as well as other public policy consultations.



18 Jan

### Belfast City Council's PEACE IV Action Plan

The CCBS response to Belfast City Council's PEACE IV Action Plan outlined opportunities for cross-border engagement and the need for capacity-building for cross-border cooperation.

<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-response-to-belfast-iv-peace-plan/>



3 Mar

### House of Lords EU Select Committee inquiry on Brexit and devolution

CCBS's evidence focused on the political and economic implications for the devolved regions (particularly Northern Ireland), and the extent to which the UK Government's approach to the forthcoming negotiations with the EU are reflective of the interests of the devolved jurisdictions.

<http://crossborder.ie/?s=House+of+Lords+EU+Select+Committee+Inquiry+on+Brexite+and+Devolution>



10 May

### Oireachtas Joint Committee on Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

CCBS Deputy Director Dr Anthony Soares presented a statement on *The future of community, social and economic development and cooperation in border counties* to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

<http://crossborder.ie/centre-for-cross-border-studies-meeting-with-the-oireachtas-joint-committee-on-arts-heritage-regional-rural-and-gaeltacht-affairs-written-statement/>



11 Aug

### EU Commission consultation on the European Citizens' Initiative

The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) was introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon. The aim of the ECI is to allow EU citizens to participate directly in the development of EU policies by calling on the European Commission to make a legislative proposal. Our response welcomed the ECI's role in contributing to the democratic functioning of the EU, and made two specific recommendations aimed at improving the operation of the ECI.

<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-submission-european-citizens-initiative-public-consultation/>



17 Nov

### House of Lords EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee inquiry into Brexit and reciprocal healthcare

Dr Anthony Soares appeared before the House of Lords EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee to provide evidence to inform the Committee's inquiry into Brexit and reciprocal healthcare arrangements. Also giving evidence in this session were representatives from CAWT.

<http://crossborder.ie/site2015/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Briefing-Notes-for-CCBS-Evidence-Session-with-House-of-Lords-EU-Home-Affairs-Sub-Committee-151117.pdf>



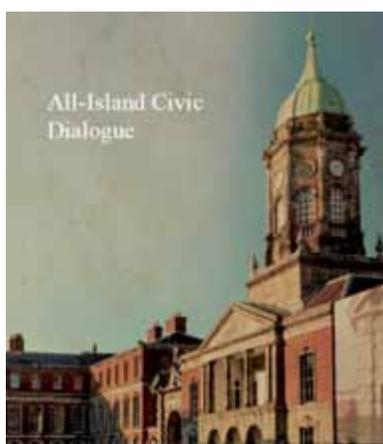
17 Nov

### House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee inquiry into the land border

Having previously submitted evidence to this inquiry, CCBS updated its response in light of the progress of the negotiations over the UK's withdrawal from the EU, particularly in terms of the issue of Northern Ireland and its relations with the Republic of Ireland. CCBS submitted written evidence which the Committee published on 17 November:

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/northern-ireland-affairs-committee/the-land-border-between-northern-ireland-and-ireland/written/72400.html>

## All-Island Civic Dialogue



The All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit was launched by Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Charlie Flanagan in November 2016 as an essential component of the Government's preparations for the Article 50 negotiations. The Civic Dialogue process continued throughout 2017, under Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Simon Coveney. Up to 500 representatives of civil society groups, trade unions, business groups, non-governmental organisations and political parties from across the island of Ireland have attended the two plenary sessions and over 1,200 civic society and industry representatives have participated in the 14 all-island sectoral dialogues held to date.

CCBS was actively involved in several of the sectoral dialogues and two plenary sessions that took place in 2017. The Centre provided seven workshop rapporteurs for a sectoral dialogue event on 3 July hosted by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Education and Skills. CCBS Director Ruth Taillon

subsequently compiled a report on the workshop discussions for the Departments and was also a panel member at a Sectoral Dialogue hosted by the Department of Health on 8 September.

- 30 Jan All-Island Civic Dialogue: Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
- 13 Feb All-Island Civic Dialogue: Human Rights and the GFA
- 17 Feb All-Island Civic Dialogue: Plenary
- 3 July All-Island Civic Dialogue: Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and Department of Education and Skills (workshop rapporteurs)
- 8 Sept All-Island Civic Dialogue: Department of Health (panel member)
- 28 Sept All-Island Civic Dialogue Plenary

The summary report of the second plenary meeting of the All-island Civic Dialogue in Dublin Castle on 17 February and a video from the event are available on:

[http://www.merrionstreet.ie/en/EU-UK/Consultations/Dialogue\\_Report\\_on\\_Brexit\\_Dublin\\_2.pdf](http://www.merrionstreet.ie/en/EU-UK/Consultations/Dialogue_Report_on_Brexit_Dublin_2.pdf)  
[www.merrionstreet.ie/brexit](http://www.merrionstreet.ie/brexit)

There is also a compendium report which brings together the reports of the first and second plenary meetings, along with the summary document of the sectoral dialogue meetings:

[https://merrionstreet.ie/en/EU-UK/Consultations/Dialogue\\_Report\\_on\\_Brexit\\_Compendium.pdf](https://merrionstreet.ie/en/EU-UK/Consultations/Dialogue_Report_on_Brexit_Compendium.pdf)

## Taskforce 50

On 29 November, Ruth Taillon and Dr Anthony Soares – along with human rights expert Prof Chris McCrudden, Paddy Kelly, Director of the Children’s Law Centre and John Clayton, Unison policy specialist – travelled to Brussels to meet with the Taskforce on Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom (Taskforce 50). Under Chief Negotiator, Michel Barnier, the Taskforce is responsible for coordinating the European Commission’s work on all strategic, operational, legal and financial issues related to negotiations with the United Kingdom. The EU Commission was represented by Nina Obermaier, who previously handled EU-Swiss negotiations after the 2014 Swiss



referendum on curtailing EU free movement and Tadhg O’Brian, a former economist in the Northern Ireland government.

The overall focus of the meeting – held just a few days before the Commission announced that “sufficient progress” had been achieved to move on to Phase 2 of the negotiations – was to advocate for the protection of rights associated with the 1998 Belfast/Good Friday Agreement as the negotiations over the UK’s withdrawal from the EU reached a critical stage. CCBS also expressed its concerns that cross-border, North-South and East-West cooperation should not be undermined in any way as a result of Brexit. While in Brussels, our delegation also met with Declan Kelleher, Irish Ambassador to the EU and Émer Deane, Counsellor, Brexit (EU-UK Negotiations Unit) Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU.

*Chief negotiator for the EU Commission, Michel Barnier*



**The Centre for Cross Border Studies is actively involved in supporting peacebuilding and cross-border cooperation and contributing to public policy development through participation by CCBS Director Ruth Taillon in several advisory and oversight bodies.**

## YouthPact Expert Advisory Group

The Expert Advisory Group in support of YouthPact, the quality and impact body for the EU Peace IV Children and Young People’s Programme, convened for the first time in December 2017. YouthPact is a cross-border partnership of four regional organisations: Co-operation Ireland (Lead Partner), Ulster University, National Youth Council of Ireland and Pobal. YouthPact will provide a series of activities to support, train, advise and signpost staff from the delivery projects. The purpose of the Advisory Panel is to maximise the impact of the programme by supporting a high-quality youth work approach and nurturing a strong change and

outcomes focus. The role of the Expert Advisory Group is strategic and high level. It will support YouthPact by seeking insights and deep understanding on the particular issues and opportunities facing Priority 2.1 delivery organisations, add new insights and perspectives and offer independent advice.



## Oversight Group of Ireland's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2015- 2018)



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

The first Women, Peace and Security resolution, United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, was adopted in 2000, and has been bolstered by six subsequent resolutions, each bringing focus on particular aspects of the agenda such as sexual violence in conflict, impunity and women's participation in decision making.

Ireland's National Action Plan aims to:

- Strengthen women's leadership and participation in decision-making in conflict and post-conflict situations

- Ensure that a gender perspective is incorporated into Ireland's engagement in overseas humanitarian and development aid, peace-keeping, governance, post-conflict activities and interventions
- Bolster Ireland's ongoing work on protection from and prevention of gender-based violence
- Leverage Ireland's participation in global and regional fora to champion the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security resolutions

In 2017, the work of the Oversight Group included consideration of the Midterm Review of the second National Action Plan, listing the achievements and challenges of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Ireland and a separate report on the Indicators used in the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

## Graduating to Success – Cross-border Project Team



Cross-border cooperation and undergraduate mobility between institutions in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland are important from an economic, social and cultural perspective. Such activity has the potential to drive the growth of the all-island economy, broaden the pool of graduates both north and south and support the ongoing peace process. The Department for the Economy is committed to supporting cross-border cooperation in teaching and learning, with the aim of increasing understanding, sharing good practice and enabling students to move freely between the

two jurisdictions. The Cross-border Project Team provides strategic oversight to the implementation of the Project.

The terms of reference, membership and administration arrangements for the Cross-border Project Team under the Northern Ireland Higher Education Strategy, *Graduating to Success*, were revised in January 2017 to reflect progress achieved to date, changes to Northern Ireland government departments, the recommendations of the interim review of the implementation of the strategy and issues arising from the Brexit process. The Graduating to Success – Cross-border Project Team includes representatives of the Institutes of Technology; the Higher Education Authority; NUS-USI; Colleges NI; QUB and UU as well as the Department for the Economy and the Department of Education. CCBS Director, Ruth Taillon continues to act as Chair.

## Research Advisory Committee for the Victims and Survivors Research Programme

The Commission for Victims and Survivors has been allocated £13.4m from PEACE IV for a programme that comprises five linked elements:

- 1 Provision of practical Advocacy Support for victims and survivors engaged in historical investigative and information recovery processes. Management and coordination of support will be provided with the appointment of six advocacy Support Managers and 21.5 Advocacy Support Workers;
- 2 Recruitment of five Regional Health and Wellbeing case managers to the Victims and Survivors Service and 26 Health and Wellbeing case workers within the community and voluntary sector to identify and address the needs of victims and survivors;
- 3 Delivery of a Resilience Programme based on the Take 5 Steps to wellbeing;
- 4 Implementation of a training and development programme to develop skills and capacity within the victims and survivors sector; and
- 5 The implementation of three research projects aligned to the wider PEACE IV Victims and Survivors Programme.

The three research projects, related to Trauma Services; Transgenerational Legacy; and Young People and Advocacy Support Services have been allocated a total of £250,000 and will run from 2017-2020. CCBS Director Ruth Taillon has accepted an invitation from the Commission for Victims and Survivors to participate in their Research Advisory Committee for the PEACE IV Victims and Survivors Research Programme. The Research Advisory Committee will advise on the management and implementation of the research projects including as members of the established research project groups.



## PUBLIC LECTURES

16 MAY

### How did people in early medieval Ireland live together?

**The second annual Spring Lecture took place on Tuesday 16 May in Armagh Robinson Library.**

Guest speaker was Prof Aidan O’Sullivan, Deputy Head of School, UCD School of Archaeology. His topic, *How did people in early medieval Ireland live together? Some insights from archaeology, early Irish documentary sources, and experimental archaeology*, attracted an audience of 41 people. Speaking in advance of his lecture, Prof O’Sullivan said, “Archaeology can be likened to travel to

foreign countries, where we go and try to understand cultures and societies very different from our own. CCBS Director Ruth Taillon commented, “We are delighted to be hosting this event in partnership with the Robinson Library. Prof O’Sullivan’s lecture has given us a fascinating insight into the work of experimental archaeologists, how it illuminates our shared island heritage and in doing so, perhaps a new lens through which to reflect on our diverse relationships and identities in modern Ireland.”



Mairead Hughes, Finance Manager, Centre for Cross Border Studies, Canon Joyce Moore, Governor and Guardian of the Library, Prof Aidan O’Sullivan, Guest Lecturer, Dean Gregory Dunstan, Keeper of the Library and Eimear Donnelly, Secretariat Administrator, Centre for Cross Border Studies

Some of those who attended the lecture on 16 May



22 JUNE

### *Economics: Helping to Make Us Human* Second annual Sir George Quigley Memorial Lecture

**The second annual Sir George Quigley Memorial Lecture on 22 June at Queen’s University Belfast, attracted an audience of 38.**

Ruth Taillon, Director of the Centre, opened the lecture by paying tribute to Sir George Quigley who has been justly recognised as the ‘father’ of

practical North-South cooperation on the island of Ireland. Throughout his extensive career in public service and his later prominent business role, Sir George championed the call for an ‘island economy’ – through cross-border cooperation – as an essential means for peace and reconciliation in Ireland.

Guest speaker, Prof José Luis Iparraguirre, Chief Economist, Age UK, used examples from studies at the intersection between economics and ageing, to make the case for a stronger integration of insights and findings from other disciplines into economics to improve analysis, broaden understanding and shape policy-making towards a more open, whole-life approach. After giving his excellent presentation, Prof Iparraguirre fielded several questions from the audience on a wide range of age and economic topics before Dr Helen Johnston, CCBS Chair, concluded the event with presentations to Lady Moira Quigley and Prof Iparraguirre and thanked them both. Prof Iparraguirre's presentation is available at:

<http://crossborder.ie/site2015/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2nd-annual-sir-george-quigley-memorial-lecture-economics-helping-to-make-us-human-iparraguirre-22-june-2017.pptx>

*Sir George recognised that economic performance and opportunity are key dimensions of creating a future for the people of this island that transcends inheritance and dissolves division. In bringing his economic and business expertise to bear on the wider social, political and cultural challenges, his intellectual lens focused on both the moral and practical importance of addressing the hopes and needs of the outsiders in marginalised communities; the vulnerable; those experiencing joblessness and poverty; those in work whose incomes are being squeezed; those whose children cannot get jobs commensurate with their abilities; those who feel that we have the talent and imagination as a community to aspire higher and achieve more in terms of standard of living and quality of life...*



Dr Helen Johnston, Chair of the Centre for Cross Border Studies, presenting Prof José Luis Iparraguirre with a copy of the late Sir George Quigley's book



Question time at the second annual Sir George Quigley Lecture

Lady Moira Quigley with Ruth Taillon, Prof José Luis Iparraguirre and Dr Helen Johnston



28 JULY

## The Garlic Wall

**Dominique Jan Searle, the Government of Gibraltar's Special Representative to the UK was the invited speaker at this year's CCBS event as part of the John Hewitt Summer School on 28 July.**

CCBS Director Ruth Taillon welcomed Mr Searle to the Market Place Theatre and thanked him for agreeing to give his presentation, *The Garlic Wall*. She drew attention to the fact that with the UK's decision to leave the EU, Gibraltar will also have an external land border with the EU and faces many of the difficulties that we face here on the island of Ireland.

The border between Spain and Gibraltar closed between 1969 and 1985. Used as a device to pressure Gibraltarians, the border continues to be a key factor in the life of the Rock and its hinterland. Mr Searle's presentation looked at the human and political factors of the dispute with Spain and how the future management of the frontier is critical for the 32,000 strong population.

After the presentation, a lively question and answer session was held, with Mr Searle and Ms Taillon fielding several questions from the large audience. Mr Searle's full presentation is available to view in the video at:

<http://crossborder.ie/the-garlic-wall-a-talk-by-mr-dominique-jan-searle-gibraltar-representative-to-the-uk/>

*Tony Kennedy, Director of the John Hewitt Society and CCBS Board member, welcoming guests*



*CCBS Director Ruth Taillon and Dominique Jan Searle Gibraltar Representative to the UK*



*Dominique Jan Searle, Gibraltar Representative to the UK with CCBS Director, Ruth Taillon*



6 DEC

## A problem to every solution? Hard borders, reconciliation, and Ireland's ethnic frontier

The Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS) launched the 2017 edition of its *Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland* on 4 December in Riddle Hall, Belfast.

CCBS Chair Dr Helen Johnston opened the event before guest speaker Prof Duncan Morrow gave his lecture. Prof Morrow is a lecturer in politics at Ulster University where he has published widely in the fields of conflict resolution, Northern Ireland politics and the relationship between religion and politics. He is currently the Director of Community Engagement at Ulster University, developing relationships with groups and organisations across the community. His research interests include Conflict and Religion, Ethnic Conflict, Northern Ireland Politics and the work of Rene Girard. For 10 years, Prof Morrow was Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council where he championed the concept of a shared future and peace-building by developing the Council's role in policy, in research and active learning, in organisations and work on key issues such as interfaces, parading and regeneration and in work with victims and survivors of conflict. Between 2012 and 2015 he was Chair of the Scottish Government's Advisory Group on Tackling Sectarianism and in 2016 chaired the Scottish Government's Advisory Group on Tackling Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion.



Ruth Taillon, CCBS Director, introducing Prof Duncan Morrow

Following the lecture, *A problem to every solution? Hard borders, reconciliation, and Ireland's ethnic frontier*, the floor was then opened up to debate. The impact of Brexit on the Good Friday Agreement was the main topic of discussion with Prof Morrow stating that Brexit must be shaped by the 1998 Agreement and not vice versa. CCBS Director Ruth Taillon brought an end to the event by recognising that although most peace agreements last on average 10 years, the Good Friday Agreement still endures.

Prof Morrow's lecture, as well as a copy of the 2017 *Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland* and the recordings are available on the CCBS website:

<http://crossborder.ie/centre-cross-border-studies-journal-launch-2017-ccbs-winter-lecture/>

Prof Duncan Morrow responding to questions at Riddle Hall event



## BRIEFING PAPERS

CCBS is continuing its intensive work on Brexit, with research being undertaken in order to update statistical evidence provided in the Briefing Papers published in the run-up to the 2016 referendum, and to garner other evidence relevant to cross-border relations. CCBS has also undertaken significant analysis of the negotiating documents produced by the UK and Irish Governments, as well as the various EU institutions. In 2017, the Centre published six Briefing Papers.

5 JULY

### Flexible and Imaginative solutions

This Briefing Paper considers the 'Flexible and Imaginative solutions' which may have to be explored post-Brexit and recommends that the 1998 Belfast/Good Friday Agreement should become a framework enabling the post-Brexit flow of people, goods and services between the two jurisdictions on the island of Ireland, and between the island of Ireland and Great Britain, avoiding the hardening of existing borders or the creation of new ones.

*<http://crossborder.ie/the-centre-for-cross-border-studies-publishes-brexit-briefing-paper-flexible-and-imaginative-solutions/>*

9 AUG

### Brexit and Economic Development (Update)

In the run-up to the United Kingdom's referendum on membership of the European Union in June 2016, the Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS) and Co-operation Ireland published a series of five briefing papers. These papers aimed to inform debate by exploring the potential impacts of an eventual Brexit on Northern Ireland and North-South relations. This publication is an update of the fifth and last paper in the series, originally published in June 2016, in which we considered the question of Brexit and economic development. Its purpose is two-fold: to update the statistical information included and analysed in the original Briefing Paper, and to consider the UK Government's approach to trade in the recently commenced Brexit negotiations.

*<http://crossborder.ie/the-centre-for-crossborder-studies-publishes-an-update-of-its-briefing-paper-on-brexit-and-economic-development/>*

18 AUG

### Response to the UK Government position paper: Northern Ireland and Ireland

CCBS welcomes the fact that the UK Government paper recognises the unique circumstances of the island of Ireland and appreciates the references to upholding the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, avoiding a 'hard border', maintaining the Common Travel Area, and continued North-South and East-West cooperation. However it is a concern that the paper states that the realisation of many of these 'high level objectives' are dependent on the UK Government achieving a 'bold and ambitious Free Trade Agreement.' While the Centre for Cross Border Studies does welcome the UK Government's high level objectives, the paper fails to address many other issues related to Northern Ireland/Ireland.

*<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-response-to-the-uk-government-position-paper-northern-ireland-and-ireland/>*

11 OCT

### **Cross-border Student Mobility in Third Level Education: An Update**

This briefing paper is an update of our ongoing work on cross-border student mobility in third level education, taking into account the present dynamic and uncertain context of the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union.

<http://crossborder.ie/cross-border-student-mobility-in-third-level-education-an-update/>

8 NOV

### **Brexit and UK-Ireland border: A Roadmap**

This paper begins a new Briefing Paper Series on 'Brexit and UK-Ireland border'. The series will consist of five papers, to be published on our website in the next few months, and develops an overview of the likely effects of Brexit on the future of the UK-Ireland land border. The present publication outlines a roadmap to the remaining papers in the series. The paper also develops an understanding of the core features of the UK-Ireland border linked to its present-day functions and degrees of openness. A central idea in political discourse so far has been that post-Brexit the border must remain as 'frictionless' and as 'invisible and open' as possible. To understand what this means, however, and the conditions under which it is achievable, despite the UK leaving the European Union's single market and customs union, we need to properly acknowledge what borders are and how they operate.

<http://crossborder.ie/centre-cross-border-studies-begins-new-briefing-paper-series-brexit-uk-ireland-border/>

DEC

### **#Brexit: Areas of concern for users of the Border People project**

Although the rights of UK, Irish and EU citizens – including those who cross the border to live, work and study – will remain unchanged at least until 29 March 2019, it appears at this stage of the Withdrawal negotiations, that ultimately, the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement will not apply to all citizens. This Briefing Paper sets out some of the areas in which differential rights and entitlements may apply. Specifically, these are around free movement of people; hard border; diverging rights of Irish and British citizens; cross-border students; cross-border workers; cross-border social security co-ordination; and cross-border healthcare.

<http://borderpeople.info/wp-content/uploads/Border-People-Briefing-Brexit-Concerns.pdf>

## BORDER PEOPLE



The Centre for Cross Border Studies, in partnership with the North South Ministerial Council (Joint Secretariat), manages the Border People project which provides cross-border citizens' information and advice in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The key elements of the project include provision of online information and direct (telephone and email) support to the public and advice sector. The project also provides cross-border training for advice sectors in each jurisdiction. Furthermore it fosters collaboration between government departments, agencies and the advice sector who have been committed members of the advisory group since 2007. In 2017, Border People received project funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Reconciliation Fund for redesign of the website.

### Border People Advisory Group

The project's cross-border Advisory Group is made up of representatives from

- Centre for Cross Border Studies
- North South Ministerial Council, Joint Secretariat
- Citizens Information Board (Ireland)
- Citizens Advice (Northern Ireland)
- Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (Ireland)
- NI Social Security Agency / Department for Communities (Northern Ireland)
- EURES Cross Border Partnership
- Law Centre NI

Meetings of the Border People Advisory Group took place in January, May, July and November. The January meeting was conducted online to trial the software selected for Border People online training courses. Feedback from the group was excellent and the online option will be further explored. Cross-border implications of Brexit and Northern Ireland Welfare Reform were the main agenda items in May. In order to enhance collaboration on the provision of Brexit information relevant to citizens, separate meetings between Border People, Citizens Advice (North) and Citizens Information Board (South) also took place in the second quarter of 2017. In addition to the July Advisory Group, conference calls to further enhance information sharing between Border People, Citizens Advice (North) and Citizens Information (South) took place in July and August. The Advisory Group continues to focus on two key issues: the cross-border implications of Brexit and of Welfare Reform in Northern Ireland. The impact

of both issues for the project, and the website, are significant; large portions of the information passed onto citizens and the advice sectors will change completely as a result of both and Welfare Reform and Brexit continue to dominate the discussions of the Advisory Group.

### Border People Website

The implications of Brexit on citizens and on the Border People website will be significant. The website contains over 500 pages and thousands of links to external sources, Brexit will impact significantly on this content. A complete overhaul of information and considerable technical redevelopment will be required to keep pace with the anticipated changes in legislation affecting citizens' rights, entitlements and obligations. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Reconciliation Fund has provided financial support for the redevelopment of the website. During the autumn, visual redesign and technical redevelopment of the website started. The new design will improve navigation through the website for users and the technical redevelopment will enhance how the site is updated. Between January and December 2017, the Border People website [www.borderpeople.info](http://www.borderpeople.info) had 107,941 visitors. They visited the site 123,123 times and viewed 201,952 pages.



## Border People Briefing Paper

In December, the Border People project produced a Briefing Paper: *#Brexit: Areas of concern for users of the Border People project*. This briefing paper sets out some of the areas in which differential rights and entitlements may apply for British and Irish citizens after the UK withdraws from the EU. Specifically, these are around free movement of people; hard border; diverging rights of Irish and British citizens; cross-border students; cross-border workers; cross-border social security co-ordination; and cross-border healthcare.

<http://borderpeople.info/wp-content/uploads/Border-People-Briefing-Brexit-Concerns.pdf>

## Border People Seminars

Two Policy Seminars in 2017 were organised by the CCBS Border People project and focused on cross-border mobility issues. On 28 March, the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) and the Border People project hosted a seminar to highlight how potential Brexit scenarios will impact on citizens. The workshop, *5 Takeaways on Brexit: Outlining Possible Scenarios for a New UK-EU Relationship and their Impact on Citizens* took place at Queen's University Belfast and was attended by 40 participants including academics, citizens' information and advice organisations, human rights organisations, migrants' rights organisations, and business groups. Parts of the workshop were broadcast live and followed by over 300 viewers online.

On 16 November, *Cross-border Implications of NI Welfare Reform*, a well-attended event hosted

*Dr Anthony Soares speaking on the issues for citizens crossing the border to work and study*



jointly by the CCBS Border People project and the Law Centre NI, provided an overview on the cross-border implications of Northern Ireland welfare reform. It is clear that there are many unresolved and complex issues for cross-border workers and their families.

## Information Provision

Border People Project Manager Annmarie O'Kane was a speaker at several events organised by others throughout the year. These included ICBAN's Brexit focus group; Border Communities Against Brexit Round Table discussion; Human Rights Commission Brexit workshop; Advice NI Universal Credit training session; DCU Brexit Institute seminars and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Reconciliation Fund annual networking forum. The project was also present at Armagh Citizens Advice AGM; the launch of InterTradelreland's Co-Innovate programme; IMPACT/SIPTU Brexit Symposium; and a round table discussion hosted by the House of Commons committee for Exiting the European Union.

The project also continued to assist citizens with complex cross-border enquiries via telephone, email and Facebook. Key topics include cross-border taxation, social welfare, pensions, healthcare entitlement and car registration.

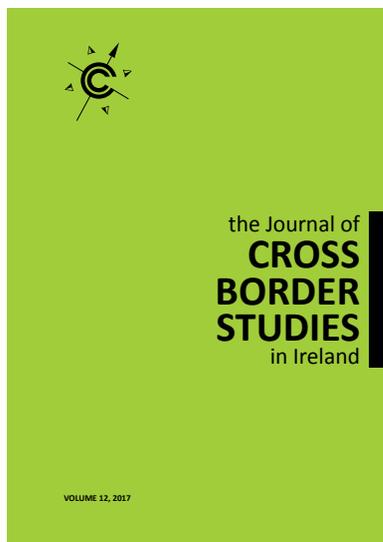
Assistance was also provided to a number of journalists and researchers seeking guidance on the implications of Brexit on issues such as cross-border shopping; cross-border commuter flows; cross-border cooperation; and the implications of Brexit.

## EU Commission research

In April, consultancy firm Deloitte approached Border People to seek assistance in setting up a focus group of cross-border employers and employees in an effort to gather evidence (on behalf of the EU Commission) of the obstacles and issues encountered by cross-border workers and employers in a number of EU border regions. The focus group met in May 2017 in Londonderry Chamber of Commerce to highlight the challenges encountered in our border region.

## JOURNAL OF CROSS BORDER STUDIES IN IRELAND

The 2017 *Journal of Cross Border Studies in Ireland* was launched at Riddel Hall, Belfast on 4 December, in conjunction with our Winter Lecture by Prof Duncan Morrow.



Our contributors all reflect, from different perspectives, the experiences and identities of ‘borderlanders’ – people who live, work, travel and cooperate across borders as part of their daily lives. Likewise, in different ways, they reflect and address the issues and challenges faced by people in border regions. Janice Rose offers a perspective from the Anglo-Scottish border while our other contributors address issues in the Ireland/Northern Ireland Border Region. Dr Anthony Soares, Louise Kennedy and Paschal McKeown share the findings of separate consultations with individuals from what might be called ‘seldom heard’ and vulnerable sections of society, highlighting their concerns and interests about cross-border cooperation and the potential impacts of Brexit. Dr Milena Komarova offers a personal reflection on Brexit and the “in/visible” UK-Irish land border. Two other articles report on the findings of studies undertaken on behalf of border region Local Authorities by Ulster University and Queen’s University Belfast respectively. We reprint here, with permission, *Brexit and the Border Corridor on the Island of Ireland: Risks, Opportunities and Issues to Consider*, prepared by Ulster University Economic Policy Centre on behalf of 11 Local Authorities. Complementing the Ulster University report,

researchers from Queen’s University Belfast present the key findings from a small scale research project commissioned by the Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN), intended to give voice to the views and concerns related to Brexit of members of rural communities on both sides of the border.

In this issue of the *Journal*, we have called upon various members of the CCBS Board, an intern currently volunteering with the Centre and our former Director, now retired to review a number of books – four of which are about the Irish Border and three about Europe, Brexit and the UK. We are grateful to all of our contributors for their insights and assistance, without which this *Journal* would not have been possible.

An electronic version of the *Journal* can be found on the CCBS website at: <http://crossborder.ie/site2015/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Journal-Cross-Border-Studies-2017.pdf>

*At the launch of the 2017 Journal: Ruth Taillon, Prof Duncan Morrow and Dr Helen Johnston*



## TRANSFRONTIER EURO INSTITUTE NETWORK (TEIN)



### TEIN Platform for Cross-Border Dialogue project

Commencing in June with a study visit to the Ireland/Northern Ireland border, CCBS has been one of the partners in the TEIN Platform for Cross-Border Dialogue project funded by the Micro-Project Fund of the INTERREG V-A Czech Republic-Poland within the Cieszyn Silesia Euroregion. The two formal partners are the Olza Association (Poland) and Institut Euro Schola (Czech Republic). CCBS is an informal partner, along with other TEIN member organisations the Euro Institute (FR-DE border); *Fachhochschule* Kärnten (A-IT-SLO border); Universitat de Girona and Université Perpignan via Domitia (FR-ESP border).

The aim of the project is to develop cooperation between public institutions (governments, research institutions) and non-governmental organisations operating in the Euroregion Cieszyn Silesia and (selected) member organisations of TEIN. The project aims to create a positive change

in Polish-Czech relations related to the historical and political context of Cieszyn Silesia. The project uses innovative methods of cooperation based on an exchange of experience between the Polish-Czech borderland and other European border regions to develop solutions for cross-border problems (these problems mostly have political, historical or ethnic/national roots).

The project is comprised of a series of international study visits for the exchange of ideas and insights, and sharing good practices in addressing and mitigating border conflicts of a social nature. Drawing on these exchanges, the lead partners will develop recommendations for the area of the Polish-Czech Euroregion Cieszyn Silesia, focused on taking action in building and developing mutual relations of Poles and Czechs, taking into account their difficult mutual history.

*Members of TEIN with seminar speakers and Cllr Roisin Mulgrew, Chair of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, during the June study visit to the Ireland/Northern Ireland border*



CCBS hosted a study visit to the Irish Border Region on 20-21 June. Cllr Roisin Mulgrew, chair of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council welcomed the visitors. As part of the programme of activities, CCBS hosted a half-day seminar, *Good Practice in Cross-border Cooperation*, on 20 June at the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. Speakers were Ruth Taillon; Tom Daly, Chairperson, Cooperation and Working Together; Pamela Arthurs, Chief Executive, East Border Region; and Margaret Hearty, Director of Programmes and Business Services, InterTradeIreland. Following the seminar, the visitors travelled to Clones for a site visit at the Peacelink project, facilitated by Donald McDonald. A TEIN project meeting took place on the morning of 21 June.

<http://crossborder.ie/good-practice-in-cross-border-cooperation-in-the-irish-border-region/>

Following the very successful study visit to the Irish border region at the end of June, CCBS Director Ruth Taillon attended the second international study visit in Germany hosted by the Euro-Institute in November. The study visit included a seminar on *Good Practice in Cross-Border Cooperation in the Upper Rhine Region* that heard presentations of the historical perspective on cooperation in the region; the transferability of reconciliation and structured cooperation based on Franco-German relations; and presentations on projects addressing conflict legacy issues. The seminar was followed by a site visit to the Albert Schweitzer International Meeting Center. Day two of the study visit was a meeting of the project partners focused on developing recommendations and a joint action plan on how members of the Transfrontier Euro Institute Network (TEIN) can cooperate and prepare for the future programmes.

<http://crossborder.ie/good-practice-cross-border-cooperation-upper-rhine-region-2/>

The project will conclude in March 2018 with a study visit to the Polish-Czech border and presentation by the lead partners on the project conclusions and recommendations.



Donald McDonald addressing the seminar in Newry



In the French Alsace region of the Upper Rhine, the site visit included a tour of a German war (1939-1945) cemetery and the exhibition "War Destinies"



Bogdan Kasperek, Olza Organisation and Hynek Boëm, Euro Schola, welcoming seminar participants to Kehl



The seminar in Kehl

## Enhancing capacities of regions and cities for better cross-border cooperation

As part of the EU Commission's DG Regio Open Days on 10 October, CCBS participated in a workshop, *Enhancing capacities of regions and cities for better cross-border cooperation*, organised by TEIN and its associated partners the MOT (Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière) and AEBR (Association of European Border Regions) as well as the CESCO (Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives), in collaboration with DG Regio/European Commission. Over 100 political representatives, cross-border cooperation practitioners (in administrations, cross-border structures or projects) and representatives of EU institutions from all over Europe came together to learn more about and discuss the initiatives, projects and tools proposed by the workshop partners. Nathalie Vershelde from DG Regio/European Commission presented the



*Nathalie Vershelde, EU Commission, Ann Hoffman, Euro Institute, and Jean Peyrony, Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière, at the seminar in Brussels on 10 October*

European Commission Communication, *Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions*.

<http://www.transfrontier.eu/2017/11/02/enhancing-capacities-of-regions-and-cities-for-better-cross-border-cooperation-2>

## Conflicts and Cooperations in the Border Regions of the EU (Jean Monnet project)

*Conflicts and Cooperations in the Border Regions of the EU* (Jean Monnet project) is led by TEIN partner, the University of Strasbourg. It exchanges experiences and debate on the role of the border in the European integration process and in cross-border cooperation. The project consists of a comparative analysis of conflicts and cooperations in eight cross-border regions: Upper Rhine (France, Germany, Switzerland); Mont Blanc (France, Switzerland, Italy); Manche and the Eurometropole Lille (France, Belgium, UK); Ireland/Northern Ireland; Cieszyn (Czech Republic, Poland); Viadrina (Germany, Poland); Catalonia (Spain, France,

Andorra); and the Slovenia/Austria/Italy cross-border region. The project includes roundtables, four two-day seminars and a publication. The first seminar took place in November 2016. The publication planned is a reference for students of European and International Studies and for cross-border practitioners. It will include a chapter on the Ireland/Northern Ireland border region. The project concludes in December 2018. *European Borders as Sources of Conflict*, hosted by the University of Strasbourg, the CEPA Foundation, Dynamiques Européennes and TEIN in Strasbourg on 8-10 November, was the third in the Castle Talks



series. The Ireland/Northern Ireland border was – with the Catalan Space – one of the featured case studies, with presentations by CCBS Director Ruth Taillon and Eamon Rafter of the Glencree Centre.

<http://crossborder.ie/castle-talks-cross-border-cooperation-conflict-cooperation-eu-borders/>

The Jean Monnet Programme, also known as the Jean Monnet Project, is a European Union initiative to encourage teaching, research and reflection in the field of European integration studies in higher education institutions. It is named for Jean Monnet (1888–1979), regarded by many as a chief architect of European Unity.



### Critical Dictionary on Cross Border Cooperation in Europe

TEIN colleagues at University of Strasbourg, the Euro-Institute and Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) are leading on the *Critical Dictionary on Cross Border Cooperation in Europe*, to be published in the Euroclio collection with Peter Lang (Brussels). CCBS Director Ruth Taillon is a member of the project scientific committee and lead author of the entry on the Irish border region. Martina Radova, an intern at CCBS, assisted with research and production of a map for the section on the Irish Border Region. The dictionary will

consist of two distinctive parts: a first (theoretical) part dealing with the terminology and the tools of cross-border cooperation, which will answer some key questions (such as what is a region, a border, a European territorial cooperation grouping etc); and a second (geographical) part, which will represent a repertory of European border regions and their sub-spaces. Each geographical article will be accompanied by a map and present key elements such as the historical development, actors, governance structures etc.

### The #CohesionAlliance

Along with other members of the TEIN, MOT and AEER, CCBS has joined the Cohesion Alliance. Currently worth one third of the EU budget, the EU’s cohesion policy reduces regional disparities, creates jobs, opens new business opportunities and addresses major global issues such as climate change and migration. The #CohesionAlliance is a coalition of those who believe that EU cohesion

policy must continue to be a pillar of the EU’s future. The Alliance was created through cooperation between the leading European associations of cities and regions and the European Committee of the Regions. It demands that the EU budget after 2020 makes cohesion policy stronger, more effective, visible and available for every region in the European Union.





## #CohesionAlliance for a strong EU cohesion policy beyond 2020

Cohesion policy is the main European investment policy to achieve the EU Treaty objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion. In doing so cohesion policy has a clear added value in creating jobs, sustainable growth and modern infrastructure, overcoming structural barriers, boosting human capital and improving the quality of life. It also enables cooperation between regions, cities and municipalities from different Member States, as well as cooperation with the private sector, knowledge institutions and social partners at regional level.

As #CohesionAlliance we are working together for a strong policy to promote economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union beyond 2020. We therefore sign up to the following principles and call upon representatives of all institutions at European, national, regional or local level, civil society, and businesses to do the same in the months to come.

### As #CohesionAlliance we declare that cohesion policy...

1. works as a **long-term investment policy for all regions** in Europe to support growth and jobs at local and regional level by promoting innovative solutions for issues such as climate change and energy transition, social inclusion, as well as for cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation;
2. is needed more than ever as an expression of European solidarity to **overcome the economic, social and territorial divide** by providing every citizen, wherever they live in Europe, with a tangible opportunity to experience the advantages of our European Union;
3. must be **better communicated** as the EU policy closest to the citizen, having a direct impact on their daily lives;
4. must continue to be an effective policy with **sufficient resources** of at least one-third of the future EU budget to be delivered via grants and, where appropriate, via financial instruments;
5. must be **based on the existing European Structural and Investment Funds with a common set of provisions**;
6. requires the **strengthening of the partnership principle and the place-based approach** by reinforcing the key role of local and regional authorities in delivering the policy by actively engaging urban and rural communities and promoting tools to trigger and support local development through integrated strategies;
7. must be **better coordinated with other EU policies on a level playing field** by taking into account the specificities of municipalities, cities and regions in the European Union;
8. must **not be subject to conditionalities** at European level that cannot be influenced by local and regional authorities and other beneficiaries;

## NORTH-SOUTH SOCIAL INNOVATION NETWORK

The Centre for Cross Border Studies continues to act as convener of the North-South Social Innovation Network and its Steering Committee, which met in March, June and September.

### Mapping Exercise

At its first meeting of 2017 held on 6 March, the North South Social Innovation Steering Committee finalised a proposal to undertake a mapping exercise of Social Innovation activity on the island of Ireland. The project was formally launched at a workshop held in Loughan House on 12 June. Led by Dublin City University, substantial work has been undertaken on this project, and the Network's role and the mapping exercise were brought to the attention of the All-Island Local Authority Forum at its meeting on 15 September, at which Michael Curran, Network Chair and CCBS Board Member, made a presentation.

### Sharing Social Innovation and Social Enterprise across the Border: Best practice in the Justice sectors on the island of Ireland

On 12 June, more than 50 people – representing Justice Departments, services, agencies and NGOs from both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland – attended a half-day workshop in Loughan House, an Irish Prison Service facility. The purpose of the event was to share skills and experiences in the areas of Social Enterprise and Social Innovation by the Justice agencies, including the Irish Prison Service and the Northern Ireland Prison Service. The workshop, which was aimed at practitioners in the justice system, North and South, voluntary and community sector organisations involved in criminal justice as well as other statutory community, voluntary and academic representatives, was also used to launch the Social Innovation mapping project the Network is supporting.

Chair of the North-South Social Innovation Network Steering Committee and CCBS Board Member, Michael Curran opened the workshop, followed by presentations from Siobhan Cafferty, Social Enterprise Project Manager; Cecilia Whitehorn, Director of Social Economy Futures; Paul Smith, Head of Regimes and Activities in HMP Maghaberry; Eddie Mullins, Governor of Loughan



*The panel takes questions at the Loughan House workshop*



*Members of the North-South Social Innovation Network Steering Committee: Vivian Geiran, Director of the Probation Service, Cheryl Lamont, Chief Executive of the Probation Service, Dr Anthony Soares, Deputy Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies and Michael Curran, Chair of the North-South Social Innovation Network Steering Committee*

House; and Jordana Corrigan, Office of Civic Engagement, Dublin City University. Guest speaker Nevan Maguire, celebrity chef and restaurant owner, highlighted his own positive experiences in having inmates from Loughan House working in his restaurant in Blacklion. A lively question and answer session followed the presentations before CCBS Deputy Director Dr Anthony Soares concluding, stressed again the importance of cross-border cooperation and highlighted the example being set by Probation services on the island of Ireland.

<http://crossborder.ie/sharing-social-innovation-and-social-enterprise-across-the-border-best-practice-in-the-justice-sectors-on-the-island-of-ireland/>

## COOPERATION ACROSS BORDERS NEAR AND FAR

### InSight/Shorelines

CCBS Director, Ruth Taillon was one of the speakers at *Shoreline Voices*, held as part of the Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival, on 3 June, to launch the InSight initiative that will explore the visual, natural and personal connections between South West Scotland, the Isle of Man, Cumbria and Northern Ireland/Ireland. Other contributors were Dr Brian Irving from Cumbria, Dr Valentina Bold, from Dumfries and Galloway, expert in cultural traditions and artist Julian Watson, also from Dumfries and Galloway. Readings from four leading poets represented and connected the neighbouring shorelines: Stacy Astill from Isle of Man, Northern Ireland's Paul Yates, Liz Niven of Dumfries and Galloway and Peter Rafferty, Cumbria.

InSight organiser Julian Watson said:

*"Standing on a clear day on any prominent hill or headland in Dumfries and Galloway you can see easily, to the south, the Cumbrian Lake District and the Isle of Man. Westwards, you can see Ireland.*

*... the northern Irish Sea ... has structured what it is to live in this part of the world. ... InSight seeks to explore, encourage and enjoy those traditional links across the northern Irish Sea. We want to find ways to foster new connections and collaborations between our four shorelines."*



In her closing remarks at the event, Ruth Taillon welcomed the InSight initiative as particularly timely as our islands face into the impacts of the impending 'Brexit'. She spoke of the importance of fostering our networks and relationships, sharing knowledge and experiences and building understanding of our commonalities and diversities. The Centre for Cross Border Studies is looking forward to future engagements with our friends and colleagues around the Irish Sea.

<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-director-ruth-taillon-speaks-at-insight-making-connections-across-the-irish-sea/>

### Causeway Institute Study Visit

The Centre for Cross Border Studies was delighted to welcome a delegation of young leaders from the South Caucasus to Armagh on 8 June.

Since the early 1990s, the South Caucasus region has been suffering from multiple highly-militarised conflicts, leading to thousands of casualties and millions of refugees and internally displaced persons. To this day, despite ceasefire agreements and official negotiation processes, the conflicts are still impacting people's lives on a daily basis.

During their visit to CCBS, we shared with them information about the mission, values and diverse areas of activities in which the Centre is involved. A presentation by CCBS Director Ruth Taillon then introduced a discussion about cross-border cooperation and peacebuilding on the island of Ireland and some of the lessons that could be of benefit in other border regions. Following the visit, she commented,

*"We are very happy to have been able to share our experiences and analysis with these young*

*peacemakers. While usually, our East-West cooperation is focused on these islands and other European border regions, in the past we have also had opportunities to share learning with organisations in Macedonia and Tajikistan. While our cultures may be very different, we have many challenges in common and the learning is always a mutually beneficial two-way process."*

<http://crossborder.ie/the-centre-for-cross-border-studies-was-delighted-to-welcome-a-delegation-of-young-leaders-from-the-south-caucasus-to-armagh-on-8-june/>



CCBS Director Ruth Taillon and Kingsley Donaldson, Director of Causeway Institute for Peace-building and Conflict Resolution International

## SECRETARIATS

The Centre for Cross Border Studies provides secretariat services for two cross-border networks, SCoTENS and Universities Ireland.

If you require secretariat services for your cross-border project or network please contact CCBS Director, Ruth Taillon, to discuss your needs.

# SCoTENS

## SCoTENS: The Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South

The Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS) is a network of 38 colleges of education, university education departments, teaching councils, curriculum councils, education trade unions and education centres on the island of Ireland with a responsibility for and interest in teacher education. SCoTENS was established in 2003 to create a safe space for teacher educators – North and South – to come together and discuss issues of common interest, and explore ways of co-operating closely together. A part of the broader peace dynamic that was gathering momentum on the island of Ireland at the time, it has always been rooted in the deepest commitment to quality teaching and learning for all. In 2017, [www.scotens.org](http://www.scotens.org) had 35,850 visitors. They visited the site 40,414 times and viewed 68,289 pages.

In 2017, SCoTENS was funded through membership fees,



An Roinn Oideachais  
agus Scileanna  
Department of  
Education and Skills

conference charges and with additional support from the Department of Education and Skills. With the collapse of the Northern Ireland Executive and budgetary pressures, funding from the Northern Ireland Department of Education and Department for the Economy was discontinued in 2017.

### 2017 Conference: *Educational innovation – the challenge of evidence-informed change*

The 2017 annual SCoTENS conference, *Educational Innovation: The Challenge of Evidence Based Change*, was held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk on 13 and 14 October. Teacher educators are conscious of the contested discourse around evidence-informed change, whether in school

classrooms or in terms of teacher education itself, and feel that there is an important debate to be had around the role of evidence in driving innovation: what sort of evidence is needed? Who is producing it? Is it adequate? Are policy makers listening? What are the consequences of not listening? Are there tensions around values and evidence, and if so, how do we reconcile them? How do we address the tendency to have ‘one size fits all’ innovation? How do we obtain the best balance among decision makers: policy makers, researchers, professional educators? The theme aimed to encourage speakers, panel members and delegates to consider these kinds of questions in a way that prompts reflection, discussion and debate.

Fifteenth Annual Conference  
#SCoTENS2017

SCoTENS  
THE STANDING CONFERENCE  
ON TEACHER EDUCATION,  
NORTH AND SOUTH

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION  
THE CHALLENGE OF EVIDENCE-INFORMED CHANGE



Opening Keynote address  
2.30pm Friday 13 October  
Professor Coleen McCaughlin,  
University of Cambridge

Closing Keynote address  
11.30am Saturday 14 October  
Professor Viv Ellis,  
Kings College London

FRIDAY 13 & SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 2017, CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, DUNDALK



*Dr Joanne Moles launches the report, 'Teacher educator professional learning: Shaping the conversation of teacher education?' With SCoTENS Joint Chairs, Dr Noel Purdy and Dr Kathy Hall, and research partners*



*Members of the SCoTENS Steering Committee with keynote speakers at the 2017 Conference*



*SCoTENS Joint Chairs, Dr Kathy Hall and Dr Noel Purdy with Ruth Taillon*



*SCoTENS Joint Chair, Dr Noel Purdy with SCoTENS Administrator, Eimear Donnelly*

*SCoTENS committee members, Dr Conor Galvin, Dr Noel Purdy, Dr Linda Clarke and Dr Maria Campbell with participants of the second SCoTENS Doctoral Studies Roundtable*





SCoTENS Joint Chair, Dr Noel Purdy addressing the 2017 Conference

Keynote speakers were Prof Viv Ellis, School of Education, Communication and Society, King's College London and Prof Colleen McLaughlin, Director of Innovation, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge. The panel discussion and workshops were built around cross-border partnerships and sought to develop understanding of educational innovation in practice. After the success of last year's pilot, a doctoral workshop was once again held during the conference. The conference also provided an opportunity to launch the SCoTENS 2016 Annual Report and the research report, *Teacher educator professional learning: Shaping the conversation of teacher education?*, funded by SCoTENS in 2015, launched by Dr Joanne Moles, Co-Director PG Mentoring Programme, University of Limerick.

All recordings and photographs from the conference are available at:

<http://scotens.org/conferences/2017-educational-innovation-the-challenge-of-evidence-informed-change/>

#### **Research: A Wengerian value-creation framework analysis of the SCoTENS project**

Following the 2016 SCoTENS Conference, at which Prof Etienne Wenger was a keynote speaker and also facilitated the Doctoral Workshop, the Steering Group agreed to take forward a piece of research using Wenger's recently developed value-creation framework and apply it to the particular social learning space created through SCoTENS since its establishment. The sub-committee established to develop the research met in January and March and Dr Geraldine Magennis and Dr

Conor Galvin presented a paper, *A Wengerian value-creation framework analysis of the SCoTENS project: reflections on learning and boundary-crossing in evolving landscapes of practice*, at the annual conference of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland in Cork, 20-22 April - <http://esai.ie/conference-2017/> This collaborative paper considers the original aims of SCoTENS, traces the development of the project and explores the continually evolving landscapes of practice within which teacher educators have encountered boundaries between multiple communities of practice. Participants in the 2017 SCoTENS Conference were interviewed to capture their perceptions on the value of SCoTENS for this research and it is anticipated that the research findings will be a focus for the 2018 Conference.

#### **Seed Funding**

Each year, SCoTENS provides seed funding to support a number of collaborative research projects and professional activities in teacher education in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. To date 95 research studies, conferences and exchange projects have been funded. Information about funded projects that are now complete (including downloadable reports) can be found on the SCoTENS website [www.scotens.org](http://www.scotens.org). The sums allocated are usually in the region of £3,000-£6,000 (approx €3,750-€7,500). The closing date for the 2017-2018 seed funding call was 2 March 2017. Sixteen applications were received and funding was granted to the following nine cross-border projects – a total allocation of £34,100.

Embedding and Nurturing Enquiry-based Learning - developing a two-level model of Initial Teacher Education through enquiry	Dr Sandra Austin and Dr Karin Bacon, Marino Institute of Education Dr Richard Greenwood, Stranmillis University College Dr Susan Pike, Dublin City University
'Where to now?: Human Rights Education on this island, these islands and beyond'	Rowan Oberman, Dublin City University Dr Gerard McCann, St Mary's University College
Music and Initial Teacher Education in Ireland and Northern Ireland: A Study of Provision, Attitudes and Values	Dr Gwen Moore, Mary Immaculate College Dr John O'Flynn, Dublin City University Dr Frances Burgess and Dr Jayne Moore, Stranmillis University College
Oracy in Schools, North and South: the perceptions, experiences and practices of oracy in primary and post-primary schools in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland	Dr Aisling O'Boyle and Mr Ian Collen, Queen's University Belfast Dr Anne O'Keeffe and Dr Fiodhna Gardiner-Hyland, Mary Immaculate College
Religions and Beliefs in Changing Times: Perspectives of Student Stakeholders in Third Level Educational Contexts in Ireland, North and South	Prof Marie Parker-Jenkins, University of Limerick Dr Aideen Hunter, Ulster University Dr Niall Coll, St Mary's University College Dr Norman Richardson, Stranmillis University College
Sharing the learning: lesson observation and reflective practice in vocational education and training	Cathal de Paor, Mary Immaculate College Celia O'Hagan, Ulster University
Exploring Teacher Confidence in the Teaching of Poetry at Leaving Certificate and A level	Dr Jennifer Hennessy, University of Limerick Nicola Ward, Ulster University
An Tréimhse Foghlama sa Ghaeltacht: Scagadh Meoin Ábhair Oidí tar éis dóibh Cúrsa sa Ghaeltacht a Chur i gCrích/Learning Periods in the Gaeltacht: Unpacking the Attitudes of Pre-Service Teachers After Completing a Gaeltacht Course	An Dr Seán Mac Risteaird, Hibernia College Pádraig de Bláine, St Mary's University College An tOll. Muiris Ó Laoire, Hibernia College

### North-South Student Teacher Exchange

The annual North-South Student Teacher Exchange project is funded by SCoTENS and managed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies in partnership with the participating colleges. The participating student teachers spend three weeks in colleges of education and on school placements in the other jurisdiction, with all travel and accommodation costs paid by the project. Students on teaching practice during the North-South Student Teacher Exchange project are assessed by both the host college in the other jurisdiction and their home college. There are a minimum of two supervisory visits to the placement school and the instrument of assessment normally used by the home college will be used. Each student also has an Observation Day in their placement school in advance of the exchange. This gives students an opportunity to get to know their placement school and its teachers, observe its teaching and learning methods and prepare teaching materials in advance of their placement.

This is an innovative cross-border exchange project and SCoTENS is interested in learning how it helps

to overcome barriers, reduce prejudice and lead to increasing co-operation between colleges of education and their students on the island of Ireland. Students are required to participate in two evaluation procedures as part of their overall participation in the project: a simple questionnaire and an Evaluation Day for students and lecturers at the conclusion of the project.

The 2016-2017 North-South Student Exchange Project involved 12 students from six colleges of education:

- Stranmillis University College, Belfast;
- Mary's University College, Belfast;
- DCU Institute of Education, Drumcondra, Dublin;
- The Church of Ireland Centre at DCU All Hallows;
- Marino Institute of Education, Dublin; and
- Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, NUI Maynooth.

The Orientation Day for students participating in this year's exchange took place at Maynooth on 19 January.



Participants in the 2017 North South Student Teacher Exchange with SCOTENS Administrator, Eimear Donnelly

## UNIVERSITIES IRELAND



Universities Ireland, founded in 2003, brings together the 10 universities on the island of Ireland to promote and develop

cooperation between their institutions. Its members are: Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, NUI Galway, Maynooth University, Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, University of Limerick, University College Cork, Dublin City University and the Open University. The Universities Ireland Historians Group organise an annual conference on the theme, Reflecting on a decade of War and Revolution in Ireland 1912-1923. Universities Ireland is the Ireland Section of Scholars At Risk, an international network of higher education institutions dedicated to protecting threatened scholars, preventing attacks on higher education communities and promoting academic freedom worldwide. In 2017, [www.universitiesireland.ie](http://www.universitiesireland.ie) had 9,303 visitors. They visited the site 11,370 times and viewed 1,772 pages.

At the Universities Ireland Council meeting on 27 November, Prof Patrick Nixon, Vice-Chancellor, Ulster University, was elected President of Universities Ireland.

## universities ireland

### North/South Postgraduate Scholarships

The aim of the North/South Postgraduate Scholarship scheme is to encourage outstanding students from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland to cross the border to undertake postgraduate study and experience life in the other Irish jurisdiction. Each year, Universities Ireland offers four scholarships, each worth €15,000.



Fifty-two applications were received for the 2017/2018 North South Postgraduate Scholarship scheme. Twelve applicants were shortlisted and four scholarships have been awarded:

- Miceal Canavan from Derry is commencing an MSc in International Politics at Trinity College Dublin
- Helen Stonehouse from Dublin is commencing an MSc in Applied Behaviour Analysis at Queen's University Belfast

- Mary Hassan from Derry is commencing an MSc in World Heritage Conservation PT online course at UCD
- Seán Fearon from Newry is commencing an MA in International Political Economy at University College Dublin

### Universities Ireland History Bursary

In 2017 Universities Ireland awarded three bursaries of

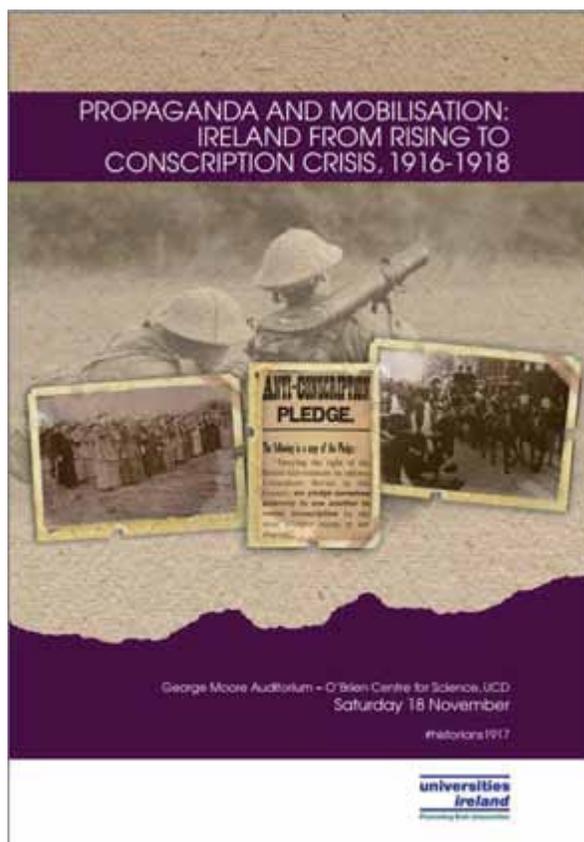


€6,500 to students undertaking postgraduate study on a topic relating to the 1912-1923 period in Ireland, the decade of the First World War and the division of the island into the states of Ireland (Irish Free State) and Northern Ireland.

- Lucy Wray, from Coleraine, is a Queen's University Belfast graduate in English and History with an MA in History. She is commencing a PhD in Queen's University Belfast titled 'The Photographer and the City: The work of A.R. Hogg in recording social conditions in early twentieth-century Belfast'. The PhD will look at the work of A.R. Hogg, in partnership with National Museums Northern Ireland.
- Neil Richardson, from Dublin, is a philosophy graduate from University College Dublin with a MA in Military History and Strategic Studies from Maynooth University. He is commencing a PhD in History in Maynooth University titled 'Why Messines and not Frezenberg? A re-assessment of the Irish 'shared sacrifice' battlefields of 1917'.
- Michael Twomey, from Cork, is a history graduate from Empire State College, State University of New York with a MA in History from the College of Staten Island, City University of New York. He is commencing a PhD in History in University College Cork titled 'The Protestant community of the Co Cork Muskerry district – decline in the non-Catholic population of the twenty-six county area'.

### Decade of Remembrance History Conference: *Propaganda and Mobilisation*

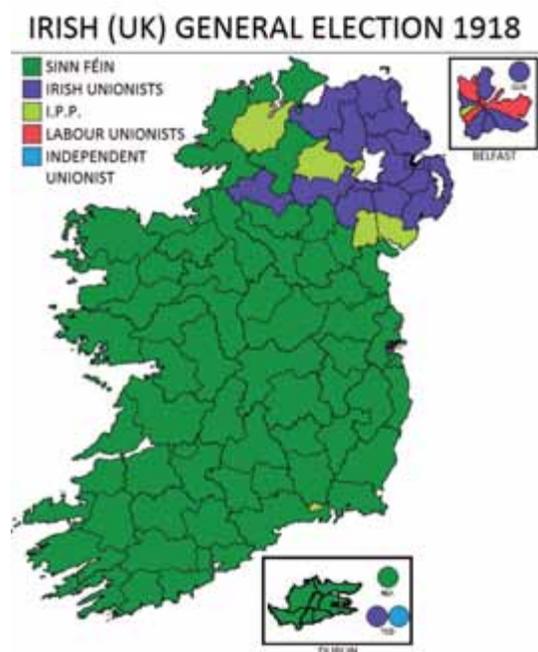
On 18 November 2017, Universities Ireland hosted the sixth annual conference in its Decade of Centenaries series in University College Dublin. Following on from last year's 'Historians on 1916' conference, the focus of this year's session was



*Propaganda and Mobilisation*. Following the 1916 Rising, Irish politics underwent a period of profound transformation between the summer of 1916 and the winter of 1918. By taking the themes of mobilisation and propaganda, this conference sought to explore the shifting dynamics of Irish society and politics during a period that is often eclipsed by the prominence of the Rising at one end and the War of Independence at the other. In between these two major military events was a battle for hearts and minds, a clash of ideology, and the daily struggle of life in wartime. Socially, politically and culturally, this year's Universities Ireland conference explored the complexities of this often-overlooked yet highly significant transitional phase in the long history of Ireland's revolutionary decade.

Speakers included: Dr John Borgnovo, Lecturer, University College Cork; Dr William Murphy, Lecturer, Dublin City University; Dr Aidan Beatty, Lecturer, Wayne State University, Detroit; Dr Conor Mulvagh, University College Dublin; Prof Mary McAuliffe, Assistant Professor, Gender Studies, University College Dublin; Dr Leanne Blaney, Lecturer, History, University College Dublin; Dr Daithí Ó Corráin, Lecturer, History and

Geography, Dublin City University; Dr Ida Milne, IRC Marie Curie Elevate Fellow, Maynooth University and Dr Margaret Ward, Visiting Fellow, Queen's University Belfast.



A slide from the presentation by Dr Conor Mulvagh, *Manufacturing Consensus: Polite Society, policy and the Irish Convention*.

In addition to papers by established academics working in Ireland and Britain, Universities Ireland showcased postgraduate research relating to this period of Irish history. The following postgraduate students presented their work: Shane Browne, University College Dublin – *'The National Volunteers: the power of political notables in mobilising the masses'*; Gerri O'Neill, Dublin City University – *'How National Aid Made Propaganda Pay: Raising Funds and Selling a Message'*; Conor Heffernan, University College Dublin – *'From Bloom to Battle: Tracing Ireland's Early Physical Culture Movement'*; Ailbhe Rogers, Maynooth University – *'The welfare of Irish political prisoners in Dundalk Gaol in the aftermath of Thomas Ashe's death, Oct 1917-April 1918'* and Dara Foran, NUI Galway – *'Town & Gown' in post Rising Ireland: University College Galway 1917-18'*

All of the presentations as well as the recordings of the speakers are available on the Universities Ireland Website at

<http://universitiesireland.ie/6342-2/>

## Scholars at Risk

Around the world today, scholars are attacked because of their words, their ideas and their place in society. Those seeking power and control work to limit access to information and new ideas by targeting scholars, restricting academic freedom and repressing research, publication, teaching and learning. The Scholars at Risk network responds to these attacks. Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of higher education institutions dedicated to protecting threatened scholars, preventing attacks on higher education communities and promoting academic freedom worldwide. Universities Ireland is the SAR-Ireland Section and partner of the Scholars at Risk network. This partnership between Universities Ireland and the Scholars at Risk network provides support to threatened academics around the world, including by arranging temporary placements in Ireland to allow them to safely continue their work.

## Academic freedom in turbulent times

On 6 November 2017, the SAR Ireland Coordinating Committee organised a conference in Maynooth University under the title *Academic freedom in turbulent times*. Prof Aidan Mulkeen, Vice-President Academic/Registrar and Deputy President, Maynooth University welcomed guests and opened the conference. Today, throughout the world, there are increasing threats to academic freedom – from authoritarian regimes and in regions at war or under occupation, but also by intolerant states and non-state actors. Academic freedom is also increasingly compromised within the academy itself by profit-maximisation models and audit cultures. The speakers drew on their first-hand experiences as well as their research to address these themes:

- What are the means that we can muster for safeguarding academic freedom and the conditions for critical thinking in these turbulent times?
- How can it be legitimised as a right that transcends international boundaries?
- How can it be asserted when it is threatened in relatively oblique ways?

The speakers were:

- Prof Homa Hoodfar, Concordia University, Montreal, a Canadian-Iranian anthropologist who was detained in Tehran's infamous Evin prison from 6 June to 26 September 2016 on fabricated charges of acting against the Iranian state.
- Dr Jamil Khader, Professor of English and Dean of Research at Bethlehem University, Palestine.
- Sinead O'Gorman, European Director, Scholars at Risk.
- Dr Kassem Alsayed Mahmoud, Postdoctoral Researcher, Free University of Brussels. Dr Kassem Alsayed Mahmoud is an accomplished researcher and professor in the field of food sciences. He taught at university level in Syria as an Assistant Professor for four years and is currently in Qatar.
- Dr Hassan Mody, previously a Professor in Aleppo University in French grammar, linguistics, and comprehension, French modern and contemporary poetry.

Dr Noelle Higgins, Senior Lecturer, Department of Law, Maynooth University led a workshop to showcase the work undertaken by Maynooth students for SAR and to encourage students at other universities to get involved. This work involves investigating attacks on higher education communities and writing incident reports as part of the SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project.

<http://monitoring.academicfreedom.info/>

All recordings and presentations are available on the Universities Ireland website at

<http://universitiesireland.ie/sar-event-academic-freedom-in-turbulent-times-6-nov-maynooth-university/>

The event was also live streamed.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the activities of SAR Ireland Section, please contact Ruth Taillon, Universities Ireland Secretary at [r.taillon@qub.ac.uk](mailto:r.taillon@qub.ac.uk). Tel: +44 28 3751 1559.

### **Brexit and Higher Education**

At the Universities Ireland Council meeting on 27 November, it was agreed that a working group should be established to agree a common position on Brexit.

The working group is chaired by Prof Richard English, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Internationalisation and Engagement, Queen's University Belfast. Each institution will nominate at least two representatives with both Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast nominating four; it is intended that three meetings will take place early in 2018 to draft a paper for approval by the Universities Ireland Council.

*SAR Committee members with guest speakers at 'Academic freedom in turbulent times'*



## CCBS ONLINE – [www.crossborder.ie](http://www.crossborder.ie)

The CCBS website continues to be an important source of information on the work of the Centre and other cross-border events, reports and issues. In 2017 [www.crossborder.ie](http://www.crossborder.ie) had 11,950 visitors. They visited the site 18,523 times and viewed 52,119 pages.

### Media Watch

Media Watch is a regular summary of news items related to the Ireland/Northern Ireland border, cross-border bodies and cross-border issues. In 2017, CCBS produced 51 issues of our Media Bulletin.

<http://crossborder.ie/media-watch/>



Centre for Cross Border Studies  
MEDIA WATCH

### Gov Watch

Gov Watch provides a regular summary of discussions in the Oireachtas and the NI Assembly related to the Ireland/Northern Ireland border, cross-border bodies and cross-border issues. 35 issues of Gov Watch were compiled in 2017. Gov Watch and Media Watch were downloaded 631 times.

<http://crossborder.ie/gov-watch/>

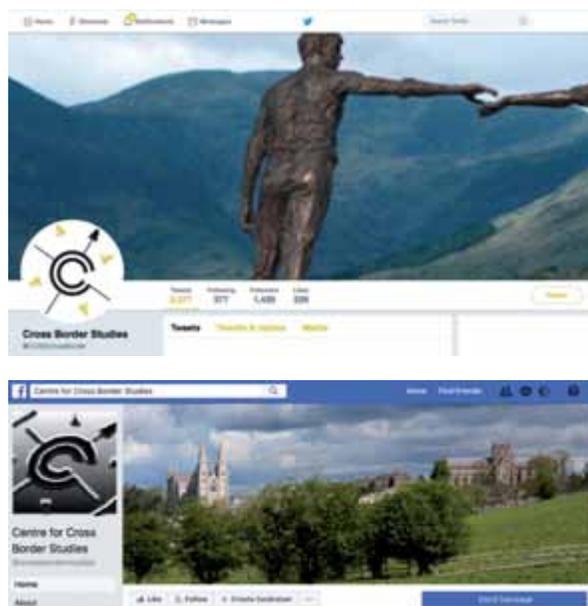
### Border-Zine

Border-Zine is our monthly ezine containing details of CCBS and other cross-border news and events, EU news and links to reports and publications that are of interest to cross-border practitioners. BorderZine had 7,200 readers in 2017, with 824 links clicked over the 12 issues published in 2017.

<http://crossborder.ie/publications/border-zine/>

### Social Media

The Centre for Cross Border Studies maintains a regular presence on social media platforms Twitter and Facebook. In 2017 the Centre for Cross Border Studies Facebook posts were seen 13,914 times and the Centre for Cross Border Studies Twitter page was visited 10,417 times with its tweets making 128,714 impressions (number of times they were seen).



## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

The Centre's growing reputation as an authoritative voice on issues related to Brexit, cross-border cooperation and peacebuilding is reflected in the variety of invitations to CCBS to provide speakers and present papers at conferences, seminars, parliamentary inquiries and other events throughout the year. Of the 25 occasions at which the Centre was represented, 20 were specifically about how Brexit would impact on the island of Ireland.

### Parliamentary Inquiries and Committees



23 Jan

#### British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly Committee – European Affairs

CCBS Director Ruth Taillon and CCBS Deputy Director Dr Anthony Soares presented oral evidence to the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Sovereign Matters at a special session in Belfast on 23 January. The Committee was interested in the implications of Brexit for Ireland, as well as Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. For more details, including the Briefing Notes informing the session, see:

<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-meets-with-british-irish-parliamentary-assembly-committee-on-sovereign-matters/>



23 Jun

#### European Economic and Social Committee Bureau of the Various Interests' Group

CCBS Director, Ruth Taillon addressed the delegates. Her presentation is available at:

<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/agenda/our-events/events/brexit-and-its-border-implications/speeches-presentations>

10 May

#### Oireachtas Gaeltacht and Rural Affairs Committee

CCBS Deputy Director, Dr Anthony Soares, appeared before the Committee to address the issue of current and future status of community, social and economic development and cooperation in border counties. You can access the written statement prepared in conjunction with CCBS Board members, Dr Katy Hayward and Philip McDonagh, here:

<http://crossborder.ie/centre-for-cross-border-studies-meeting-with-the-oireachtas-joint-committee-on-arts-heritage-regional-rural-and-gaeltacht-affairs-written-statement/>

16 Nov

#### House of Lords EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee

CCBS Deputy Director, Dr Anthony Soares, appeared before the House of Lords EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee to give evidence to its inquiry on Brexit and reciprocal healthcare arrangements.



Ruth Taillon addressing the European Economic and Social Committee Bureau of the Various Interests' Group on 23 June

## Summer Schools



19 July

### Global Turbulence and Uncertainty: Ireland and Europe must prepare for a new era

CCBS Board Member, Dr Katy Hayward participated in a panel on the topic, "Planning for the Future: A New Relationship between the North and South of Ireland is Needed. Dr Hayward's opening remarks can be found here:

<http://www.macgillsummerschool.com/dr-katy-hayward-2/>



15 Sept

### William Carleton Summer School

CCBS Deputy Director, Dr Anthony Soares gave a keynote speech at the William Carleton Summer School, where he assessed the UK Government's proposals on Northern Ireland and the border as part of the negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. Dr Soares' full lecture, 'Creativity and its Limits in the Approaches to Brexit' is available:

<http://crossborder.ie/site2015/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Creativity-and-its-limits-in-the-approaches-to-Brexit-140917.pdf>

*CCBS Deputy Director, Dr Anthony Soares speaking at the William Carleton Summer School*

*Panellists Dr Paul Darragh (BMA), Louise O'Reilly TD (Sinn Féin), Martina Anderson MEP (Sinn Féin), Ruth Tallion (Centre for Cross-Border Studies) and Gina McIntyre (Special European Union Programmes Body)*



## Conferences and Seminars



23 Feb

### Black and Ethnic Minority Voices in Shaping Post-Brexit NI

CCBS Information Manager, Anmarie O'Kane led a workshop on 'Possible post-Brexit scenarios for cross border workers'. The organiser's report on the conference is available at

<http://crossborder.ie/site2015/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2017-ST-Conference-report.pdf>



22 Mar

### Belfast Festival of Ideas

Dr Anthony Soares, Deputy Director, was among the panellists discussing, "Will the triggering of Article 50 be a serious blow to peace, politics, trade, or is this simply unfounded scaremongering?"



30 Mar

### Cooperation Ireland Brexit Event

CCBS Deputy Director, Dr Anthony Soares, was one of the keynote speakers at an event organised by Cooperation Ireland's "Circle of Learning" programme. More details of the event, entitled "A Divided Northern Ireland in a Dividing Europe", can be found at:

<http://www.cooperationireland.org/programmes/community-programmes/circle-of-learning/2017-celebration-event/>



3 May

### United Nations Association NI

Ruth Taillon was guest speaker at the event to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN. Her talk focused on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the work being done under the Irish Government’s National Action Plan. The slides for her presentation are available at

<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-director-ruth-taillon-was-guest-speaker-at-a-meeting-of-the-united-nations-association/>



4 May

### DKIT School of Business and Humanities

Ruth Taillon gave a presentation to academic staff at Dundalk Institute of Technology at a School of Humanities Research Day on “Doing Research in a Brexit Environment” at the School of Business and Humanities Research Day. The slides for her presentation are available

<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-director-ruth-taillon-guest-speaks-at-doing-research-in-a-brexit-environment/>



3 Jun

### Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival

CCBS Director, Ruth Taillon was a speaker at *Shoreline Voices*, to launch the InSight initiative between South West Scotland, the Isle of Man, Cumbria and Northern Ireland/Ireland

<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-director-ruth-taillon-speaks-at-insight-making-connections-across-the-irish-sea/>

15 Jun

### Human Rights Consortium Conference: ‘Brexit: Charting a Way Forward. A Civil Society Dialogue’

CCBS Director Ruth Taillon was on the panel focusing on *Cross Cutting Issues*. Ruth’s full presentation is available at

<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-director-ruth-taillon-to-be-guest-speaker-at-brexit-charting-a-way-forward-a-civil-society-dialogue/>



11 July

### Fianna Fail (Brendan Smyth TD)

Ruth Taillon was one of the guest speakers at a ‘Brexit Briefing’ event hosted in the Hotel Kilmore, Cavan on 11 July by Brendan Smith TD, Chairman of the Fianna Fáil Parliamentary Party

<http://crossborder.ie/site2015/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Presentation.pdf>



6 Aug

### Féile an Phobail

Ruth Taillon’s lecture on “The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement: Addressing the Totality of Relationships” addressed the urgency of cross-border, all-island and East-West cooperation in the context of the impending exit of the UK from the EU.

<http://crossborder.ie/the-belfastgood-friday-agreement-addressing-the-totality-of-relationships/>



22 Aug

### Sinn Fein

Ruth Taillon was a speaker at this SF event on “Brexit and its Impact on Health”. Speakers included Dr Paul Darragh from the British Medical Association and Gina McIntyre from the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB)



7 Sept

**University of Warwick**

Dr Anthony Soares, gave a keynote lecture, “Migration at the Northern Ireland (Brexit) Border: Identities, Commodities and Connections”, at the “Discourses of Migration” conference

<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-deputy-director-gives-keynote-lecture-at-warwick-university/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhyYCVgZ5w0>



19 Oct

**Middletown Centre for Autism**

Dr Anthony Soares provided a briefing to the Board and Executive Officers of the Middletown Centre for Autism on the progress of the negotiations on the UK’s withdrawal from the EU

<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-updates-middletown-centre-autism-brexit-negotiations/>



7 Nov

**Borders in Globalization Conference, Ottawa**

Dr Katy Hayward presented on why Northern Ireland/Ireland needs a unique post-Brexit arrangement and Ruth Taillon spoke on the challenges to health and social care on the island of Ireland as a consequence of Brexit

<http://crossborder.ie/borders-globalization-conference/>

<http://www.biglobalization.org/content/big-international-conference-2017>



10 Nov

**‘Fresh momentum for cross-border cooperation’, Düsseldorf**

Dr Anthony Soares was a panellist for a discussion on “Consequences of Brexit for border regions”

<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/events/item-annual-conference-2017>



24 Nov

**IMPACT/ SIPTU Symposium on Brexit**

Focusing on the issue of the border, the symposium examined questions of the border’s future post-Brexit. Annmarie O’Kane highlighted the potential impacts of Brexit for cross-border workers and the potential changes to information currently available on the Border People website.



13 Dec

**Fermanagh and Omagh District Council**

The Council hosted this workshop to help business consider the risks, challenges and opportunities associated with Brexit. Dr Anthony Soares gave a presentation at the Workshop.

<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-deputy-director-takes-part-brexit-workshop-organised-fermanagh-omagh-district-council/>



Ruth Taillon addressing the Human Rights Consortium conference on 15 June



The 'Cross-Cutting Themes' panel at the Human Rights Consortium conference on 15 June



Brendan Smith TD speaking at the Brexit Seminar in the Hotel Kilmore with fellow speakers Bertie Ahern, former Taoiseach; Ruth Taillon, Director, Centre for Cross Border Studies; Katie Daughen, British Irish Chamber of Commerce; Lorraine Higgins, CEO Retail Excellence Ireland and Paul Kelly, Director of Food and Drink Industry Ireland



ECAS Roundtable event, 20 June



Jim Kelly, Irish Ambassador to Canada with Dr Katy Hayward, Matthew O'Neill and Ruth Taillon at the Borders in Globalization Conference, Ottawa



Dr Anthony Soares, speaking at the ITEM Conference, 10 November

## CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND EVENTS ATTENDED

17 Jan	TIUN/QUB Brexit Event	12 Sept	Advice NI Universal Credit Training
9 Feb	ICLRD 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary event	13 Sept	Human Rights Commission Brexit workshop
2 Mar	SOLACE/CCMA Seminar	13 Sept	Launch of Oireachtas Implementation of GFA Committee Brexit report
9 Mar	QUB Brexit Event		
9 Mar	EURES Seminar	21 Sept	Rural Women's Regeneration Conference
15 Mar	BIIGS St Patrick's Reception	21 Sept	Navigating Brexit: Trade
21 Mar	British Embassy with NI Affairs Committee	23 Sept	Brexit 15 months on
30 Mar	Probation Board NI Seminar	27 Sept	Brexit and the black market roundtable
24 Apr	National Risk Assessment	29 Sept	Brexit and the Japan-UK relationship
9 May	Europe Day Reception	5 Oct	Brexit, Citizens' Rights and their Protection
11 May	QUB Brexit event	9 Oct	EGTC Conference
12 May	Reception at British Embassy	10 Oct	Chatham House Roundtable
16 May	University of Edinburgh (Immigration policy seminar)	11 Oct	EBR Event
22 May	Cross-border Civic Dialogue (N&W Region)	12 Oct	Diplomatic Charity Gala Dinner in support of Co-Operation Ireland
24 May	JRCT – Great Repeal Bill, 4 Jurisdictions		
7 Jun	Wellbeing Roundtable	19 Oct	MCA Brexit Update
7 Jun	Department for Communities Brexit event	25 Oct	Informing NI Brexit Considerations
12 Jun	Launch of Victims & Survivors Research	25 Oct	NICVA Seminar with David Sterling
14 Jun	Ulster University Brexit Event	26 Oct	CIB Dublin
20 Jun	ECAS Workshop, Brussels	26 Oct	Reconciliation Fund Networking Event
21 Jun	Brexit: Borders, Constitution and Money	26 Oct	EU Debate Event
27 Jun	Open University – Brexit event	26 Oct	Brexit, the Border and the Internal Market
28 Jun	RIA event re Brexit & Higher Education	2 Nov	Protecting Human and Equality Rights from Brexit
4 July	ICBAN Brexit Focus Group		
6 July	Northumbria University	3 Nov	EU and Wider Europe
28 July	Farewell reception for Ruairi de Burca	20 Nov	Launch of Independent Legal Opinion
23 Aug	Armagh Citizens Information AGM	22 Nov	Ulster GAA Forum
25 Aug	Jim Nicholson MEP Brexit Business Lunch	28 Nov	Social Innovation Roundtable
30 Aug	QUB Brexit Policy Seminar	5 Dec	NERI Quarterly Economic Observer Launch
4 Sept	EU (Withdrawal) Bill Roundtable	6 Dec	British Irish Intergovernmental Secretariat Reception
5 Sept	Shared Future event		
6 Sept	British Ambassador's Annual Summer Party	7 Dec	Brexit event, Stormont
7 Sept	Launch of InterTradeIreland Co-Innovate Programme	7 Dec	House of Commons committee for Exiting the European Union, Round table
7 Sept	Navigating Brexit Roundtable Series		
8 Sept	Communities against Brexit Roundtable	20 Dec	STEP 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary event

## PRESS AND BROADCAST MEDIA INTERVIEWS

In 2017, CCBS Director Ruth Taillon and Deputy Director Dr Anthony Soares were interviewed on at least 40 occasions for local, national and international press and media outlets from as far away as North America, China and Japan.

**The Asahi Shimbun**  
Asahi Shimbun (Japan)

**EUROPA-BÜRO** Dettlef Drewes  
(Germany)

**Neue Zürcher Zeitung**  
Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Switzerland)

**spotlight**

**BBC**

**france•tv**  
France 3 Television

**RTS** Radio Télévision  
Suisse

**Belfast Telegraph**

**General-Anzeiger**  
General-Anzeiger (Germany)

**RTE**

**Canadian Broadcasting Corporation**

German National Public Radio

**CCTV**  
China Central Television Europe

**Göteborgs-Posten**  
Gothenburg Post (Sweden)

Spanish Radio

**DEMOCRACY NOW!**  
DEMOCRACYNOW.ORG  
Democracy Now (USA)

**Handelsblatt**  
Handelsblatt (Germany)

**sundayherald**  
Sunday Herald (Scotland)

Democracy Now (USA)

**北海道新聞**  
Hokkaido Shimbun Press (Japan)

**The Economist**

**DER SPIEGEL**

Der Spiegel (Germany)

**thejournal.ie**  
Journal.ie

**theguardian**

**EL MUNDO**  
El Mundo (Spain)

**Jyllands-Posten**  
Jyllands-Posten (Denmark)

**THE IRISH NEWS**

**THE IRISH TIMES**

**euronews.**  
Euro News

**Les Echos**  
Les Echos (France)

**讀賣新聞**  
THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN  
Yomiuri Shimbun (Japan)

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

### RECERC Journal

An article by CCBS Deputy Director, Dr Anthony Soares, *Cooperation, Identity and Brexit at the Irish Border*, was published in RECERC Journal – Special Edition on “Cross-border Cooperation in Europe: Beyond the Scars of History”. This special issue of RECERC, an online journal of the Franco-Catalan Transfrontalier Institute, results from the reflections carried out within the framework of the TEIN (Transfrontier Euro-Institute Network) network on cross-border cooperation and on the history of cross-border relations.

<http://www.transfrontier.eu/2017/10/18/recerc-special-issue-cross-border-cooperation-in-europe-beyond-the-scars-of-history/>

<http://recerc.eu/numeros/numero-1-special/>



### Borderlands Studies



An article by CCBS Director, Ruth Taillon, *Cross-Border Issues in Ireland: Lessons for the Anglo-Scottish Border*, has been published on Taylor & Francis Online and is in the Journal of Borderlands Studies, *Issue 1*. This article endeavours to examine the different forms of cross-border cooperation across the Irish border, while evaluating the successes and failures of the approach institutionalised by the 1998 Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. The article concludes by emphasising the increasingly complex nature of cross-border cooperation across the United Kingdom and Ireland, particularly in the light of the impending withdrawal of the UK from membership of the European Union.

Free access for 50 e-prints is available at

<https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/S3U37tiPTwrKbvTZGsly/full>

and it is also available at

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08865655.2017.1294493>

<http://crossborder.ie/ccbs-director-ruth-taillon-journal-contribution-cross-border-issues-in-ireland-lessons-for-the-anglo-scottish-border/>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rjbs20/33/1>

## MEMBERS OF THE CCBS BOARD

<b>Dr Helen Johnston</b> (Chair)	Senior Social Policy Analyst, National Economic and Social Council
<b>Dr Anna Bryson</b>	Senior Research Fellow, School of Law, Queen's University Belfast
<b>Michael Curran</b>	Business Development Manager, Hanley Energy Ltd
<b>Dr Katy Hayward</b>	Senior Lecturer, School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast
<b>Trevor Holmes</b>	Vice President, External and Strategic Affairs, Dublin City University
<b>Tony Kennedy OBE</b>	Director, John Hewitt Society
<b>Dr Maurice Manning</b>	Chancellor, National University of Ireland
<b>Philip McDonagh OBE</b>	Independent Economist, Chair of the NI Statistics Advisory Committee and Charity Commissioner for Northern Ireland.
<b>Colin Stutt</b>	Colin Stutt Consulting
<b>Dr John Doyle</b>	Director of the Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction and Executive Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dublin City University
<b>Prof Daire Keogh</b>	Cregan Professor of History and Deputy President of Dublin City University

Dr Doyle and Prof Keogh were replaced on the Board in June 2017 by:

<b>Rev Earl Storey</b>	Founder, Topstorey Communications
<b>Ed Hearne</b>	Director, Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development, Fingal County Council



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