


# What kind of European Union do we need?

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Cross Border Studies

## “Are you there, Northern Ireland?”

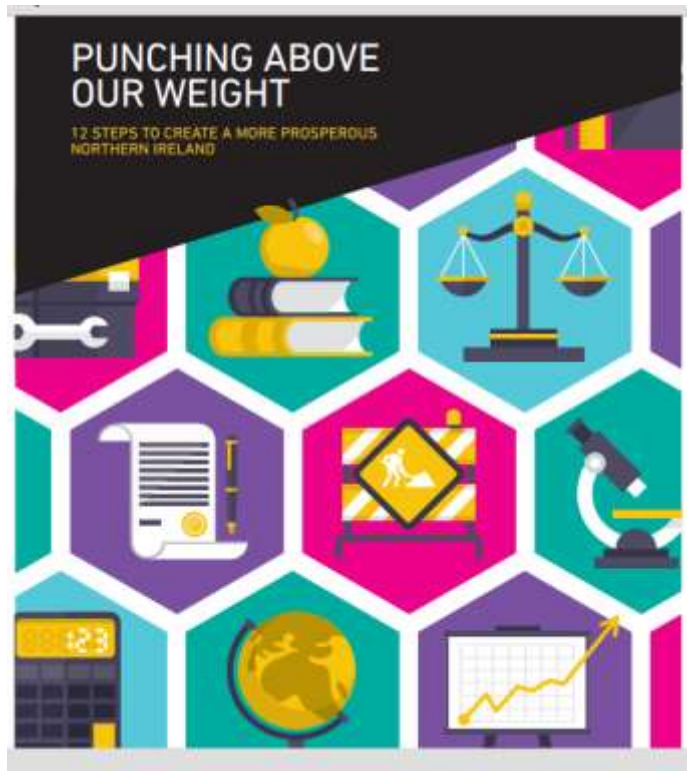
- ▶ “political parties in Northern Ireland have been slow to engage fully with the EU” (Mary C. Murphy).





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# “Are you there, Northern Ireland?”

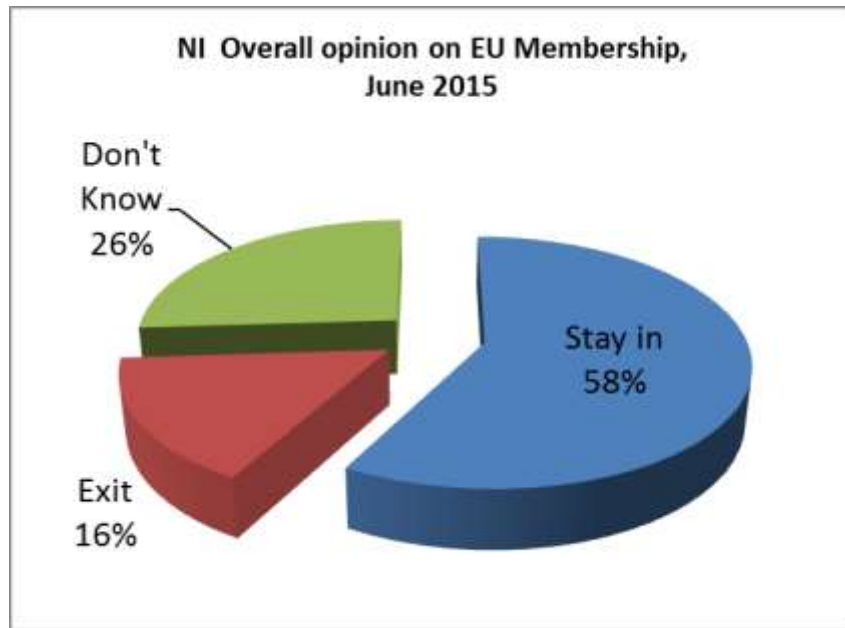


- ▶ “Speak with one voice in arguing that Northern Ireland’s economic future is best served by continuing to be a member of a reformed European Union.”
- ▶ “There is an opportunity to reform the way the EU works for the better as it goes through significant change. That means the EU focussing on facilitating growth and jobs rather than lifestyle regulation or employment law.”



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## “Are you there, Northern Ireland?”



- ▶ “Support for EU membership is most likely higher in Northern Ireland because the region has always been a net recipient of EU funding. The Common Agricultural Policy, Structural Funds, Rural Development funds and the Peace and Reconciliation monies have all made a dramatic contribution to life in Northern Ireland over the last 40 years.” (Angela McGowan, Danske Bank)



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# “Are you there, Northern Ireland?”

Danske Bank

## EU Membership Survey Majority of people in NI want to stay in EU



Percentage of local  
people who want to  
exit the EU



Percentage of local  
people who were content  
to stay in the EU



Percentage of local people  
who are uncertain



Males in NI are more  
content to stay in EU  
than females



58% of over 65s want the  
UK to remain in the EU



65% of full time workers  
wish to stay in the EU

\*Survey was carried out in June 2015

[www.danskebank.co.uk](http://www.danskebank.co.uk)

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- ▶ “There are also some valid criticisms of the European Union around burdensome regulation on small companies and the Greek bailout earlier this year was considered by many to have pushed the democratic boundaries.” (Angela McGowan)



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## Imagining the EU: UK and NI



- ▶ “Given the profound implications for the nations of the UK of a referendum on membership of the EU, it is vital that the Government engage fully with the devolved institutions during the negotiations. The Government must ensure that the devolved administrations are not presented with a *fait accompli*” (House of Lords EU Committee).



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## Imagining the EU: UK and NI

- ▶ 2014 electors (ONS)
- ▶ England 37,831,553
- ▶ Scotland 4,035,394
- ▶ Wales 2,225,749
- ▶ Northern Ireland 1,232,382





## Imagining the EU: UK and NI



**The Scottish  
Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

- ▶ “The Scottish Government’s agenda for EU action and reform is informed by two primary considerations” (Scotland’s Agenda for EU Reform, 2015).





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## Imagining the EU: UK and NI



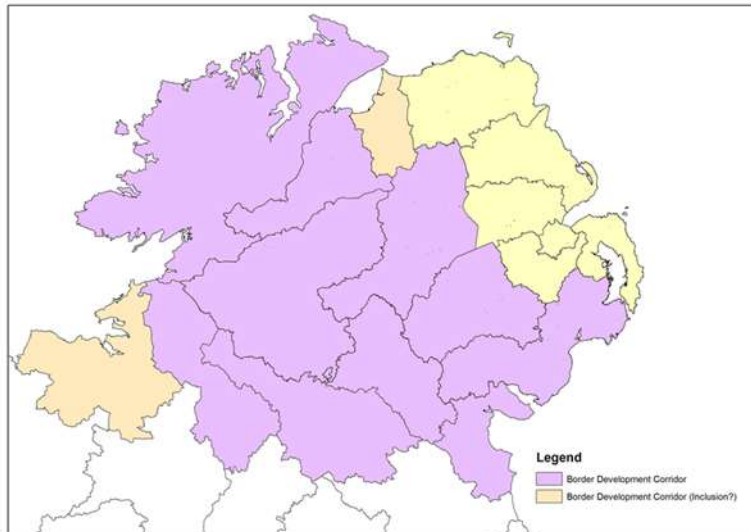
**The Scottish  
Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

- ▶ “It is [...] essential that the EU focuses its policy and legislative activities on addressing issues where supranational action offers the best opportunity for collective progress”.
- ▶ “steps must be taken as a matter of urgency to implement practical measures that re-connect the citizens of the EU with the EU institutions and restore confidence that the EU only legislates where necessary and, even then, in the least intrusive way possible”.



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# An EU of Regional Growth



- ▶ “Regional policy aims to reduce the significant economic, social and territorial disparities that still exist between Europe's regions” (DG REGIO).
- ▶ Supporting the “PIGS”: wasteful or long-term self-interest?



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# An EU of Regional Growth

- ▶ Plugging the gap?
- ▶ Funding for cross-border cooperation?





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# Northern Ireland in the EU?



- ▶ For regions seeking to optimise their effectiveness [...], there are both formal and informal channels at their disposal. Therefore, **the onus is on regional authorities and actors to be aware of EU policy developments which impinge upon their subnational responsibilities and interests, and have a capacity to respond effectively and constructively**” (Mary C. Murphy).