



**The Centre for
Cross Border Studies**

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CENTRE FOR CROSS BORDER STUDIES

The Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS), based in Armagh, has a specific and unique role in contributing to the increased social, economic and territorial cohesion of the island of Ireland through:

- addressing information gaps and other barriers that constrain cross-border mobility and cross-border cooperation through research and provision of resources, tools and other practical support;
- promoting and improving the quality of Cross-Border Cooperation between public bodies, and between public bodies, business and civil society; and
- improving the capacity of people involved in social and economic development of the island to engage in mutually beneficial Cross-Border Cooperation.

The Centre is an independent company limited by guarantee (UK charity no. XR 31047), and was founded in 1999 by Queen's University Belfast, Dublin City University and the Workers Educational Association. Our principal financial contributors in recent years have been the EU INTERREG IVA programme and the Irish Department of Education and Skills. The Centre's role as Secretariat for two cross-border networks, Universities Ireland and the Standing Conference of Teacher Educators North and South – both of which are partially funded by the Irish Department of Education and Skills and Northern Ireland's Department of Employment and Learning – also provides a crucial revenue stream for the Centre.

Cross-border Cooperation in the context of the island of Ireland has been evolving, deepening and widening as a result of two primary public policy imperatives:

1. The commitment to Cross-border Cooperation that is integral to the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement; and
2. EU Cohesion Policy, the objective of which is to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion by reducing disparities between the levels of development of regions and countries of the European Union.

These twin pillars are the policy framework that provides the context for all of the work undertaken by the Centre for Cross Border Studies.

RESEARCH

A diverse and high-quality research portfolio is at the core of the Centre's activities, providing a strong foundation for the Centre's support to cross-border and transnational cooperation. High quality research and analysis, with an increased focus on applied research and policy, continue to be

the Centre's core activities. This research and analysis informs and supports the Centre's advocacy for and promotion of cross-border cooperation on the island of Ireland and increasingly, our work in an EU and broader international context. The ability to provide independent, evidence-based information and analysis is fundamental to the Centre's role as an essential resource for policy and decision-makers and cross-border practitioners. CCBS welcomes opportunities to bid for research commissioned by outside bodies and opportunities for partnerships on cross-border projects within Ireland and in other EU and international research projects.

The Ireland Northern Ireland Cross-Border Cooperation Observatory (INICCO) project – a diverse package of research, information and capacity-building projects funded through the EU INTERREG IVA Programme and delivered in partnership with the International Centre for Local and Regional Development¹ – will constitute a major proportion of the Centre's activities until February 2015. Since 2009, CCBS research projects funded as part of the INICCO project have included:

- ***Cross-Border Economic Renewal: Rethinking Regional Policy in Ireland;***
- ***Unlocking the Potential of Cross-Border Hospital Planning on the Island of Ireland: A Prototype Modelling Framework;***
- ***Unlocking the Potential of Cross-Border Hospital Planning on the Island of Ireland: The Role of Community Involvement in Hospital Planning.***
- ***Towards a Border Development Zone:*** five scoping studies (Towards a Border Development Zone' overall strategy and structure; SMEs with export potential; Tourism and recreation; Agriculture, food and fish processing; and Low carbon initiatives and renewable energy).

Much of the CCBS research portfolio under the INICCO banner is, in line with the funding criteria, directed at the development of tools to support practical cross-border cooperation. These include:

- The ***Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross Border Cooperation*** is the first of its kind in Europe, and has been widely welcomed by EU agencies and programmes involved in cross-border cooperation. The SEUPB adopted the Toolkit methodology as the basis for a revised 2-stage application process in the final call of the INTERREG IVA Programme and subsequently funded CCBS to provide training and mentoring based on the Toolkit
- ***Acute Specialities Mapping Tool:*** a prototype mapping tool of the location of hospitals in the border region and the specialties available.
- ***Budget Toolkit for Cross-Border Projects*** (in progress)
- ***Evaluation Toolkit for Cross-Border Projects*** (in progress)

As a partner in the Transfrontier Euro Institute Network, CCBS is currently working with partners in other EU border regions to adapt region-specific toolkits for cross-border/inter-cultural project management, developed in the Franco-German border for use in five EU border regions. This ***Intercultural Cross-Border Project Management Tool***, which will be launched in Strasbourg in September, will form part of the Centre's portfolio of tools to support cross-border

¹ The CroSPlan project, led and delivered by our INICCO partners ICLRD, comprises three sub-projects: The Executive Training and Animation Programme, building capacity among Local Authorities; the Shared Services project, combining action research, a learning network for local authorities and web-based resources; and Evidence-based Planning, the development of several accessible on-line socio-demographic mapping systems for the border region.

projects throughout the entire project cycle: planning, implementation, budgeting and evaluation. We are also partners in a TEIN project led by the University of Strasbourg that is compiling a **Cross-border Dictionary** as a reference tool for practitioners and we are also partners with TEIN colleagues in a Horizon 2020 application for a research project under the working title: **Memories of Europe in border regions - from local to European to global**. The project intends to build a library of oral histories of local actors in European cross-border regions and analyse whether, and to what extent, cross-border cooperation has contributed to the emergence of a new “European” identity.

The Centre publishes the *Journal for Cross Border Studies in Ireland* annually.

POLICY

In 2013 the Centre began a renewed campaign to raise awareness of Cross Border policy issues; as a result the Centre plans to engage with local representatives and relevant committees within Stormont and Oireachtas. During 2013 and 2014 the Centre has presented papers on cross border issues at a wide range of conferences in Ireland and Europe and responded to several public policy consultations including:

- ***Inquiry into the Barroso Task Force*** (Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister).
- ***Review of Ireland’s Foreign Policy and External Relations*** (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)
- ***National Risk Assessment for Ireland***
- ***Review of the balance of EU Competences in the area of Social Cohesion*** (UK Department for Business, Innovation & Skills)
- ***Measuring Wellbeing in Northern Ireland*** (Carnegie Roundtable).

In addition, as part of the Border People project, CCBS has to date produced two briefing papers (additional briefing papers are planned) drawing upon cases emerging from our online citizens’ information service:

- ***Family Benefits***; and
- ***Barriers to Student Flow between Jurisdictions***

SERVICES

Provision of services to cross-border projects and networks is an important strand of the Centre’s work. All the services offered by the Centre are complementary to the vision, mission and values of CCBS, supporting collaboration across borders. Other services such as the information provided by the **Border People** project and training and mentoring using the tools developed as part of our research programme are an integral part of our work of supporting and promoting cross-border mobility and cooperation. All of the services provided / offered by CCBS are complementary to our strategic vision mission and goals. There are three main strands to the services offered by CCBS: Secretariats, Training and Mentoring, and Information.

- The **Secretariat** services provided by CCBS support valuable cross-border networks that are otherwise dependent upon voluntary management. At present, CCBS provides Secretariat services to the ***Standing Conference of Teacher Educators North and South (SCoTENS)***, 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. ***Universities Ireland***, is a network comprising the ten universities on the island. On behalf of Universities Ireland, CCBS coordinates the North/South Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme; the Irish Section of the international Scholars at Risk network; and the historians' project '*Reflecting on a decade of War and Revolution in Ireland 1912-1923*'.
- The **Training and Mentoring** services are at present mainly funded through INTERREG IVA as part of the INICCO project. The current phase of the Border People project is focused on training existing advisors in the two jurisdictions in the provision of cross-border information. Other training services are directly linked to the tools that have been and are currently being developed under the INICCO and TEIN projects.
- **Information:** The ***Border People*** website (www.borderpeople.ie) and staff provide information for people crossing the Irish border to live, work and study. There is a high demand for information and advice on cross-border mobility issues that has grown beyond the Centre's capacity. To meet this demand, in 2014 CCBS has recently trained 100+ advisers from organisations on both sides of the border. In future, CCBS will focus on frontline information provision, supporting other advice agencies with information updates and policy analysis.

SUPPORTING COOPERATION ON THE ISLAND AND BEYOND

Building relationships with organisations in each jurisdiction is essential to building trust and peace. Over the years the Centre has been fortunate to have opportunities to engage with many statutory bodies, community groups and other organisations as research collaborators, advisors and project partners.

The success of the ***INICCO*** project owes much to the commitment and involvement of our partners and participants; who include, in addition to the International Centre for Local and Regional Development, Cooperation and Working Together, Pobal, InterTradelreland, the Euro Institute, Citizens Advice Board, Citizens Information Board, the Department for Social Protection and Department for Social Development, the North South Ministerial Council, the All-Island Research Observatory, universities, cross-border networks, community organisations and local councils.

In recent years the Centre has also concentrated efforts on building relationships with similar cross border bodies in Europe. The Centre is a founding member of the ***Transfrontier Euro Institute Network (TEIN)***, a network of 12 organisations from nine EU border regions, funded by the EU Leonardo Programme. TEIN brings together training organisations and universities engaged in facilitating cross-border cooperation through building capacity and providing practical solutions to problems and needs of practitioners of cross-border cooperation.

CCBS Director Ruth Taillon is chair of the ***Cross-Border Co-operation and Student Mobility Project Team*** in support of the Department of Employment and Learning Department's Higher Education

Strategy for Northern Ireland, *Graduating to Success*. Members of the Project Team include representatives from QUB, OU, UU, University and College Union, NUS-USI, NWRC, HEA, IOTI, DENI, and DEL. A key element of the Team's work will be to support the Department in the implementation of the recommendations of the IBEC-CBI report "A Study of Obstacles to Cross-Border Undergraduate Education" by Andy Pollak, former CCBS Director.

CCBS is a member of the ***Northern Ireland European Regional Forum***, led by the European Unit of Belfast City Council and the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM). Its objectives are to: maximise EU funding opportunities; shape EU policy to the benefit of the region; and influence future funding calls to the benefit of regional stakeholders

In April 2014 the Centre hosted ***a high-level delegation from the Republic of Tajikistan*** to the region. The visit, facilitated by the German state development agency GIZ, has the aim of introducing cross-border policymakers and project managers from Tajikistan to the Irish model of transfrontier cooperation. In 2013 CCBS and the Euro Institute delivered a week-long training course in Germany for GIZ-Tajikistan staff.

The Centre is a proud supporter of the ***John Hewitt Society*** which has developed a range of literary and cultural activities aimed at breaking down parochialism, narrow exclusive concepts of identity and hostility towards the 'other'. CCBS sponsors an annual talk as part of the John Hewitt Summer School.

CCBS was a founder-member of the ***15 Years On Group***, bringing together people prominent in peacebuilding, peace research, cross-border and cross-community cooperation. CCBS Director, Ruth Taillon is also a member of the steering group of the PEACE III project, ***Border Roads to Memories and Reconciliation***.

The Centre is also a member of both the UK and Irish networks of the ***Anna Lindh Foundation***.

VISION, MISSION AND GOALS

VISION

The Centre for Cross Border Studies will build further on 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.

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.

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.

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. **To enhance delivery of high quality research and services through:**
 - Research and analysis, with an increased focus on applied research and policy;
 - Analysis of cross border lessons from other organisations and regions;
 - Information and training resources which are accessible and relevant to a range of audiences;
 - Training in practical skills to enable more effective cross-border co-operation;
 - Dissemination of up-to-date and accessible information;
 - Evidence-based advocacy of cross-border cooperation and cross-border solutions;
 - Provision of secretariat services to all-island and cross-border bodies; and
 - Management and organisation of events to aid dissemination and networking.
2. **To enhance and further develop networks and relationships with key partners at local, regional, national, EU and international levels through:**
 - Partnerships and strategic alliances;
 - Facilitation of dialogue and networking;
 - Increased outreach to policy and decision-makers;
 - Strengthened links with the community and voluntary sector; and
 - Enhanced links with academia.

CONTACT DETAILS

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- **Dr John Doyle**, Director, Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction and Executive Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dublin City University
- **Dr Katy Hayward**, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Queen's University, Belfast
- **Mr Tony Kennedy OBE**, former Chief Executive, Cooperation Ireland
- **Prof Daire Keogh**, President, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin
- **Dr Maurice Manning**, Chancellor, National University of Ireland
- **Ms Anne McGeeney**, former Director, Cross-Border Centre for Community Development, Dundalk Institute of Technology
- **Mr Colin Neilands**, Director, Workers' Educational Association (Northern Ireland)
- **Sir Bruce Robinson**, former Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and Permanent Secretary to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister
- **Mr Colin Stutt**, independent economic consultant

The company Secretary is **Ms Margaret Connolly** Head of Accounting Services, Queen's University Belfast

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