



EAST BORDER REGION



CROSS BORDER CO-OPERATION

Best Practice and Future Opportunities
from across the European Union

Knightsbrook Hotel
Trim, Co. Meath, Ireland

Thursday 13 June 2013



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund
Investing in your future





CROSS BORDER CO-OPERATION

Best Practice and Future Opportunities from across the European Union

Welcome. East Border Region in conjunction with the Association of European Border Regions invites you to consider and discuss three main themes in respect of Cross Border Co-operation throughout Europe.

Future Opportunities and Challenges for Cross Border Co-operation


The first theme is particularly important as we are in the midst of preparing for INTERREG V and we will discuss the latest EU thinking in respect of same. The session moderator is Mr Martin Güillermo Ramirez, AEBR.

INTERREG: Promoting Cross Border Economic Development

The second theme will explore cross border economic development, particularly projects which are currently being supported by the INTERREG Programme. Using case studies, you will hear from Project Managers from across the EU discussing the benefits that their projects have brought to their respective cross border regions. The session moderator is Mr Aidan Gough, InterTradelreland.

Low Carbon Solutions for a new Cross Border Environment

The third session will use case studies to highlight how the INTERREG Programme is addressing the issue of Low Carbon Solutions for a new cross border environment. All cross-border activities have to deal with these challenges; however the environment has no border. The session moderator is Mr Declan Meally, from Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).



Proposed bridge at Narrow Water, spanning the Ireland / Northern Ireland border, a symbol of cross border co-operation

Agenda

9.30 am **Registration and Refreshments**

10.00 am **Welcome and Introduction**

Mr Ray Butler, *Teachta Dála (TD) for Meath West*
Cllr Alan McDowell, *Vice Chair, East Border Region*

10.15 am **Future Opportunities and Challenges for Cross Border Co-operation**

Moderator **Mr Martin Güillermo**, *Secretary General, Association of European Border Regions*

Speakers **Mr Wolfgang Streitenberger**, *Senior Advisor, Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Urban Development, European Commission*
Mr Christian Gsodam, *Advisor to the Secretary General, Committee of the Regions*
Ms Ann-Sofi Backgren, *Ostroboetnia (FI), 1st Vice Chair, AEBR*
Ms Lorraine McCourt, *Director, Joint Technical Secretariat, Special EU Programmes Body*

Question and Answer Session

11.45 am **Break and Refreshments**

12.00 noon **INTERREG: Promoting Cross Border Economic Development**

Moderator **Mr Aidan Gough**, *Strategy and Policy Director, InterTradelreland*

Case Studies **Mrs Sharon Daly**, *Programme Coordinator, Aspire Project*
Ms Pamela Arthurs, *CEO, East Border Region, Narrow Water Bridge Project*
Mr Paul Nemes, *Acting Head, International Secretariat, Värmland (Sweden), Promoting Cross-border Economic Development Between Sweden and Norway*
Mr Jan Oostenbrink, *Deputy Director, EUREGIO (Germany-Netherlands) The Mechatronics Project. Innovative cross border developments for SMEs*

Question and Answer Session

1.30 pm **Lunch**

2.30 pm **Low Carbon Solutions for a new Cross Border Environment**

Moderator **Mr Declan Meally**, *Head Dept, Emerging Sectors, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland*

Case Studies **Ms Catherine McCloskey**, *Chair, Smart Eco Hub Project*
Mr Joseph Birt, *Co-Chair, Energy Efficiency and Micro Generation Project*
Mr Stuart Thompson, *University of Ulster, NEES (Natural Energy Efficient and Sustainable) Project*
Ms Gabriella Rigoni, *Friuli-Venezia-Giulia (Italy), CBC in the Field of Sustainable Energy in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Border Area*

Question and Answer Session

4.00 pm **Summation and Close**

Ms Lorraine McCourt, *Director, Joint Technical Secretariat, Special EU Programmes Body*
Mr Damien English, *Teachta Dála (TD) for Meath West*

4.30 pm **Networking Opportunity**

7.00 pm **Pre - Dinner Reception** Swifts Bar – *Courtesy of Meath County Council*

7.30 pm **Conference Dinner** Barbican Suite 2
After Dinner Entertainment provided in The Terrace Lounge



East Border Region Ltd

East Border Region is one of five local authority led cross border networks on the Ireland/Northern Ireland border. East Border Region comprises of ten local authorities: Newry & Mourne, Down and Banbridge District Councils; Armagh City and District Council; Craigavon, Ards and North Down Borough Councils in Northern Ireland; and Louth, Monaghan and Meath County Councils in the Republic of Ireland, the Region has a total population of 826,000.

East Border Region was established in 1976 to promote innovative, cross border economic development in the areas of agriculture, industry, commerce and tourism and so improve the living conditions and employment prospects of those living in the region. East Border Region was awarded the role of Implementing Body in the Ireland / Northern Ireland INTERREG IIIA Programme 2000–2006 and as a result successfully implemented approximately €25 million to genuine cross border projects across the region. At present East Border Region has been successful in securing approximately €32.47 million from the INTERREG IVA Programme. Projects are funded across a range of themes including Economic Development, Infrastructure, Tourism and the Environment.

East Border Region has been a member of the Association of European Border Regions since 1991.



Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

AEBR was formed in 1971 and since that time it has been the main forum for learning and the exchange of experience between border regions in a European Union which has expanded very considerably in recent years. Equally AEBR plays an important role in influencing the European Commission in respect of cross border co-operation and EU policy. In 2010 East Border Region hosted the AEBR Annual Conference in Dundalk, Co. Louth. This was attended by Commissioner Hahn and other high profile speakers from across the EU. This is only the second time that the Executive Committee of AEBR will be hosted in Ireland.