



THE IRISH ASSOCIATION
for cultural, economic and social relations

corrymeela[®]

LIVING WELL TOGETHER: BEYOND 2016

A pre-conference report

May 2016

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An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs
and Trade



Community Relations Council
Equity Diversity Interdependence



Energy for
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GLOSSARY

ALB	Arm's Length Body
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BMEF	Black, Minority Ethnic and Faith
BSL	British Sign Language
CBINI	Confederation of British Industry Northern Ireland
CTA	Common Travel Area
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DfC	Department for Communities
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FOI	Freedom of Information
FP7	Framework Programme 7
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GFA	Good Friday Agreement
IA	Irish Association
IABA	Irish Amateur Boxing Association
IBEC	Irish Business and Employers' Confederation
ICR	Institute for Conflict Research
ISL	Irish Sign Language
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
NIAC	Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
NIE	Northern Ireland Executive
NSMC	North South Ministerial Council
QUB	Queen's University, Belfast
R&D	Research and Development
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SBG	Straight Blast Gym
UCC	University College Cork
UFC	Ultimate Fight Championship
UNLOSC	United Nations Law of the Sea Convention
UFU	Ulster Farmers' Union

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*The issue of **Shared identity** is now a significant issue across the Island of Ireland and the importance of recognising and promoting it through **the arts, heritage and culture** has become increasingly clear in this centenary year of 2016.*

***The Border** remains a potent influence on cultural and social life and, in particular, on the operation and **prospects of the two economies** on the Island. Differential patterns and ideas have emerged as to how these challenges and opportunities are currently being tackled by the voluntary, public and private sectors and how they might best be addressed for **Living Well Together** in the future*

*The prospects for and impacts of **Brexit** remain unclear but there will undoubtedly be major effects on both economies as well as more hidden effects on socially disadvantaged groups like **those living with disabilities, the homeless and families of new migrants.***

Cross-jurisdictional relationships are important to the people of the Island of Ireland. This report outlines some of the areas which link them. It indicates that a new sense of **shared identity** is being forged between Northern Ireland and Ireland as dealing with the past is primarily superseded by building for the future. If the current demographic trends persist, the indigenous and migrant population of the island will continue to rise from 6.4 to 10 million within the next 50 years.

The **arts, heritage and cultural expression** are without doubt key agents of identity formation and social change whose reach cuts across a range of policy strategies for improving health, education, economic and social regeneration North and South. Access to small and large scale arts projects has a key role in strengthening a sense of collective belonging and identity, of 'we, us and ours' rather than 'them and theirs', of tackling social exclusion, promoting equality and increasing North-South cooperation. Yet the costs of the arts sees a very low per capita expenditure both North and South compared to the GB regions and stringent departmental cuts within the sector have resulted in the demise of some companies and a reduction in the overall capacity of others to exhibit and disseminate unique and valuable work.

2016 has been a year of looking both sympathetically and critically at the events of 1916 in Dublin and on the battlefields of France and Belgium. These bloody set pieces achieved much politically and are now commemorated with dignity and respect by many, yet they also sowed the seeds of fracture and separation for individuals, families and communities throughout the Island. 2016 is also a year when political hay is being made by those responding to suggestions that a reduction in pan-nationalist voting in the North equates to a desire for a distinct Northern Irish identity. Furthermore, it is one where the Brexit/Bremain debates have focussed thoughts on **identity in a broader European context.**

Since 1995 the Peace Programmes have brought approximately 2.26 billion euros into Northern Ireland and the border counties with approximately 1.56 billion emanating directly from the EU. It is principally through the collaborative outworking of these programmes, undertaken as explicitly anti-sectarian and reconciliatory work, that cross-border relationships are unequivocally improving. This report recognises that **building good relations** is now an implicit ethos and principle in many large scale infrastructural public sector schemes as well as in the sustained voluntary work of the not-for-profit and charity sectors. However, the public and community sector commitment to building good relations and partnership working is as yet insufficiently mirrored or monitored in the economics and values of private enterprise. While a key indicator of the success of European funding streams and inward migration is improved relationship-building on the island of those from diverse ethnic and faith communities, there remain distinct and different heritages and cultural preferences.

There are significant economic, social and educational benefits that come as a result of the contributions to **language** development through the European Union. While Polish is now the most extensively spoken and read language after English on the island, the richness of an indigenous language heritage has been advanced by programme makers and distributors such as TG4, BBC Gaeilge and the Ulster Scots Broadcast Fund. And for deaf people, living in a predominant oral culture, a strong sense of identity, social mores and bonding is created through their first preference language of ISL, while others throughout the island choose to enrich their communication by retaining connection to the more globally used BSL.

North and south, people are becoming increasingly more concerned with finding solutions that are unhampered by borders to matters of **social well-being** and the **environment** over addressing constitutional issues. These include, for example, the impact of all-island energy supply, aviation research and development, and the role of the churches and voluntary sector in bridging the gap separating the two suicide strategies, North and South. Furthermore, there is learning to be gained from the challenges facing charities attempting to work on both sides of the border in support of those experiencing the effects of welfare reforms, austerity and other social determinants of poor mental and physical health that impact the most vulnerable, including the growing numbers of homeless people and families.

The **border** continues to be a potent symbol of a traumatically divided and divisive Island, not least for those whose families have lost lives or businesses. It provides a clear example of how competition in **sport** at a provincial, regional and a national level can be both a healthy and an unhealthy force with highly politicised and combative identities in the administration and cultures of sporting bodies, their associations and their fan bases. It continues to restrict configuration of mutually beneficial economic policies and alignment of working practices. Likewise, it hampers easy access to a diverse range of **essential education, housing and medical services** including palliative care, radiation treatment, mental health service provision and other specialist areas. Border or no border, halting the spread of infectious diseases such as TB and HIV, to which certain ethnic groups and those experiencing social deprivation are susceptible, requires a dedicated Island-wide approach.

Within the **economy**, Irish growth outperformed the rest of Europe in 2014 and 2015. There is strong and continued growth throughout the island of the IT, tech and screen industries. The success of the agri-food sector is heavily dependent on EU support and markets with common regulations and quotas core to its growth and to keeping prices down. The growth of subsidiary artisan and speciality food markets is forecast to be worth €615 million, with NI accounting for more than a quarter of that figure.

There are distinct differences in the two economic systems. A particularly strong dependency on **public funds** in the Northern economy is in contrast to the thriving international financial service sector hub in Dublin which provides an advantageous location for (re)investment opportunities for those wishing to work in English and a similar timeframe to the London stock exchange. It is noteworthy that the border is being 'virtually' subverted with new on-line start-up business models in the financial sector now providing significant investment support for those throughout the island unable to engage with more traditional methods from the local and international banking sector. Yet the cross-border infrastructural investment overseen by the North South Ministerial Council has not yet provided a satisfactory **transport** network that can effectively connect the regions and cities throughout the island, other than Dublin to Belfast.

There are a range of anomalies in the systems North and South which act as barriers to investment, in the growth and expansion as well as the capacity to retain, a skilled workforce. These include taxation discrepancies, operational caps, and employment restrictions. Despite this, the introduction of social clauses in every public procurement contract for supplies, services and constructions is implementable and could make considerable difference to the eradication of child poverty and address the challenges facing NEETS and other vulnerable people throughout the island.

The existence of the border, however, can also provide an adroit sleight of hand in terms of building strategic and financial alliances in partnership working. The **screen industries** are heavily dependent on maximising soft funding through tax credits and anomalies in the tax system to underpin cross-border and international co-production. Such shared working practices across the border is also of value in maximising and scaling up cast, crew and production costs in the independent film and broadcast media locally and internationally and the secondary impact on island-wide tourism and retail sector is significant. And since 1991, INTERREG has brought in approximately 1.13 Billion Euros to Northern Ireland and the Border Region with approximately 810 million euros provided by the European Union and the rest made up by match funding from the Belfast Executive, the Dublin Government, and, since 2007, the Scottish Government.

The impact of Brexiting or Bremaing is muddy and unclear. This is not least the case for those living with **disabilities** on the island who benefit whilst at home and abroad from standardised access to a range of goods and services in keeping with European directives.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Institute for Conflict Research (ICR), was asked to compile an ‘everyman’ report on the evolving pattern of relationships on the Island of Ireland for the Irish Association (IA) and their partners The Corrymeela Community (Corrymeela) in preparation for their Conference in June 2016.

This was to be based on a condensed literature review and time-bound scoping study carried out with a range of contributors and sources. Its focus was to consider aspects of progress being made, as well as the challenges and risks (current and upcoming), in building and sustaining all-island links at a time when the lead up to the Brexit referendum provided the framework and context in which conversations were being conducted.

IA and Corrymeela identified four key areas to be used to frame the sections and content within the report, namely:

1. Positive and negative impacts of the border on cultural, economic and social life in the two jurisdictions and more widely.
2. Areas of North-South economic and social co-operation and the impact of recession and political tensions amongst other challenges and risks on these activities.
3. Dynamics, drivers and limitations of cross-border networking and interaction and their roots in both top-down and bottom-up initiatives.
4. The impact of Brexit on social relations in Ireland.

It was agreed that the report would be structured and designed to contain truncated case studies to prompt questions and stimulate discussion at the conference, providing a snapshot, rather than an extensive review of these areas. The aim is to prompt conference to debate and provoke contributions within workshops that might consider a range of fresh perspectives on contemporary relationships in addition to more traditional experiences. Consequently, the sections draw on areas of cultural heritage, the environment, the economy, sports and the arts.

And the questions to be reflected on in conference were to be:

What did you hear that you consider most important to take note of, positive and negative?

Where are the opportunities for growth?

What are the risks and who needs to take them?

What do we need to prioritise?

A limit as to the amount of material and data that could be included meant that the study had to provide a balance between a macro strategic overview of sectoral concerns, with the micro details of how these can impact the relationships and day-to-day living experiences of individuals. The exemplars used to illustrate this were to be chosen so as to represent a select and alternative range of practices within civic society taken from the community, private and public sectors. Consequently, there are disciplines and areas of work from academia and education through parenting to zoology whose important work might have been included, but are not represented within this paper.

METHODOLOGY

ICR worked to connect with individuals and organisations from a list of contacts provided by the IA and built on that list with their own connections, attending relevant conferences and seminars and conducting conversations, face-to-face and telephone interviews with individuals identified by IA and Corrymeela.

A short literature review was carried out and key documents referred to in the text or used to inform its development are included in the report's bibliography. Attempting to draw quantitative equivalences between both jurisdictions was significantly hampered by a lack of uniformity in data collection and inconsistencies in figures emanating from different state and unofficial sources.

In keeping with the ethos of the three organisations involved in the design and crafting of this report, the exemplars picked were chosen to enable a focus on issues which highlight the diversity of people on the Island and the need for an approach that considers the holistic health, welfare and capacity-building of citizens and communities. This in turn brings a complementarity in the report to that of the Carnegie Foundation's contribution to work on the future of Northern Ireland which is based on its identification of the need to shape and put a wellbeing framework at the heart of government.¹

¹ Carnegie UK Trust March 2015 *Towards A Well-Being Framework: Findings from the Roundtable on Measuring well-being in Northern Ireland* http://www.nicva.org/sites/default/files/d7content/attachments-articles/carnegie_short_report_compressed.pdf sourced May 2016

INTRODUCTION

Those who are lucky enough to find a seat on the Enterprise in Newry or Dundalk at either end of the day can attest to the fact that cross-border working and productivity is much more feasible than it was previously.

There is a fluidity and familiarity of access between both jurisdictions from workers, students, shoppers and traders who are both indigenous and those who are newer migrants and a clear promotion of international investment and reinvestment in both dominions.

Fourteen million cars now cross the border between Dundalk and Newry annually, in excess of 18,000 workers and 5,200 students cross daily and, each year, 1.7 million people cross the border for short visits.² 653,000 of Northern Ireland's tourist visitors (65% of total) came from Europe in 2014 and spent almost £140 million.³ The census figures for 2011 indicate that travelling Southbound across the border, the biggest cohort (57%) are males aged 25-34 with women in the same age range making up the majority (54%) of those travelling cross border Northbound. Managers, directors and professionals account for 44% and 38% of those travelling South and travelling North respectively to work, with higher numbers travelling North to work in occupational groups requiring lower skill levels. The wholesale and retail industries, account for 16% travelling North and 14% commuting South and of those who work in the education and health sector cross-border, 28% of those commuting go South to North, with 22% commuting North to South. While the destination of commuters is concentrated on Dublin, Belfast, Derry and Coleraine, there are other clusters South in Letterkenny, Drogheda and Dundalk and North in Armagh, Craigavon and Newry, Omagh and Strabane where opportunities for study and work are clustered and attractive. Those commuting for work or study into the North tend to be resident in the border areas of Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth, with those travelling South coming from a wider spread across the North.

As it does wherever a border exists (enabling currency exchange rates to be played), there are rich pickings being made in the unregulated horse trading of capital, goods and (increasingly) international human commodification within flourishing informal and black economies. It is borders that taxes are accounted for as creatively as they can be. So it is perhaps unsurprising, that despite attempts to capture data by a range of methods and agencies, there are no definitive figures to be found in relation to migrant workers (documented or not) travelling to and from one jurisdiction for seasonal agricultural work and other temporary employment.

It is, of course, unclear how much of this movement can be attributed to being a direct or sole result of the expansion of the EU and the concomitant changes in legislation and common regulation that this has brought to practices north and south

² <http://crossborder.ie/services/information-and-training-services/border-people/> sourced 20 March 2016

³ NIO <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/northern-ireland-affairs-committee/northern-ireland-and-the-eu-referendum/written/30974.pdf> sourced 20 March 2016

of the border. Nor is it evident how this culture may be impacted by any fallout after the closing of the Brexit-gate debates.

But it is pertinent that the context today in which young people navigate and forge their identities in virtual space, as well as on the island North and South is, (and has been since 1973), as active participants in European Integration. It is also one where division and union is deeply imprinted on a contemporary and historical sense of personhood and belonging. And one where building peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the six southern border counties has benefitted since the 1980s from explicit community development work both from within and without Europe including the International Funds for Ireland and Peace Funding⁴.

Since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA), it is enshrined in the policies and joint ministerial workings of both national governments and the Northern Ireland Assembly to recognise opportunities to maximise individual and joined strategic interests through more aligned cross border working. Large scale infrastructural investment in roads and waterways demonstrate how such links are beneficial to both the public and the private sector.

Furthermore, at macro, mezzo and micro levels, social and economic networks of exchange that have been established and built up over the years, continue to develop their own multi-layered dynamics and cultures

Some benefit from, or are reliant on resources, grants, or structures from regional, national or international funding mechanisms to pump-prime or prop them up. Others have been independent successes. However small, each bring benefits economically, culturally and socially from an island-wide commitment to build cross-jurisdictional wide trade and exchanges.

Two complementary approaches currently being taken to European publicly funded North-South enterprise and trade relationships can be characterised as ‘cross-border’ and ‘all-island’:

- Some successful InterTradelreland’s business support programmes and the European INTERREG and PEACE Programmes along with International Fund for Ireland financed activities are well documented as having particular reach and impact in the border and northern counties (Nauwelaers, Maguire and Marsan 2013). Since 1991 INTERREG has brought in approximately 1.13 Billion Euros into the Region with approximately 810 million euros provided by the European Union and the rest made up by match funding from the Belfast Executive, the Dublin Government, and, since 2007, the Scottish Government.)

⁴ The International Fund for Ireland was set up in 1986 as result of the Anglo-Irish Agreement with the objective of promoting economic and social advance and encouraging contact, dialogue and reconciliation between people and communities throughout the island of Ireland which has contributed £714million to 5,800 projects.

Since 1995 the Peace Programmes have brought in approximately 2.26 billion euros into Northern Ireland and the border counties with approximately 1.56 billion emanating directly from the EU.⁵ However the challenge of appropriate evaluation of the Peace Programmes remains a constant hurdle (Bush and Huston nd).

- The geographically broader and integrated all-island approach (corresponding with the physical maritime boundaries of the island) has a focus on infrastructure (e.g. electricity and roads) and the building of public service provision and delivery as overseen by the North-South Ministerial Council (NSMC).

Through the establishment and working of intermediary funding bodies and the consolidation of district partnerships, have had a focus on employment, social inclusion, and approaches to urban and rural regeneration. But, while aspirations for joint working may be clear, (such as in relation to a rejuvenation of the border corridor or the implementation of social clauses), action planning can sometimes remain woolly. Furthermore, as suggested Coakley and O'Dowd (2007), being able to mobilise people in favour of constructive cross-border cooperation has frequently been dependent on time-limited grants and hampered by the question of sustainability.

The recent report by the Joint Committee on the All-Island Economy (2016) of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation draws on the evidence given by a broad range of organisations and individuals. Its findings note the significant differences between the economies of the two jurisdictions in terms of scale, structure and performance. This includes the more successful attraction of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and intensity of Research and Development (R&D) in the South, and the noticeably high dependency on the public sector in the North along with the impact of industrial restructuring and European agricultural subsidies.

There have been significant successes in both cross-border and all-island cooperation and in the growth of public and private enterprise and investment nationally and internationally. A recent ESRI report focuses on four key areas of impact in relation to Brexit, namely trade, R&D, energy and migration (Barrett et al 2015). There are considerable anomalies in the two systems which remain as barriers to the investment, jobs and taxation. The three areas which Danny McCoy of IBEC considers to be crucial elements to inform a continued island-wide approach to growth are:

- regulatory barriers and gaps;
- the terms and alignment of strategic objectives; and,

⁵ http://www.seupb.eu/NewsAndEvents/LatestNews/16-02-23/Facts_figures_on_EU_PEACE_INTERREG_Funding.aspx sourced 16 May 2016

- the impact of the economic, social and cultural practice of existing collaborations and co-operations.

There are also operational gaps and discrepancies impacting integration, growth, expansion, disposable incomes and the capacity to attract and retain skilled workers, including:

- taxation;
- employment restrictions; and,
- eligibility of partner organisations.

Notwithstanding this, and the ramifications of fluctuations in the Sterling/Euro exchange rate, for many, the border between North and South simply no longer exists. There are any number of ways that it is being traversed, not least virtually, spiritually and by a range of communication, technological advances and transport mechanisms.

Any reimplementation of border controls as a result of Brexit on the border's existing and potential strategic and operational working has the potential for significant disruption within the island on the economies and movement of people and goods as well as a psychological and symbolic reconnection to the conflicts of the past. Furthermore, there will be far-reaching implications for individuals and businesses island-wide that accompany the renegotiation of social, economic and cultural relationships as well as trading agreements. And the possibility that Scotland will leave the United Kingdom in the case of a Brexit brings even wider ramifications for import and exports not just within the island, Great Britain and Europe, but to FDI and our trading with the Americas and to countries to the East of the Euro zone.

BBC NI's weatherman Barra Best (hashtag chicken), followed the 2014 World Cup, and tweeted as the North's biggest private sector enterprise, the Moypark poultry processing company dominated the television-camera friendly advertising boards in the Brazil stadia. By June 2015 the marketing rationale was more clearly apparent following the acquisition of the parent body Marfrig by JBS, the largest of Brazil's meat production companies, indicating their first steps into Europe were to be through Ballymena, Craigavon and Dungannon. This is a matter of particular interest to the growing community of Portuguese speaking migrant workers within the food processing sector who hail from Timor-Lest as well as to their indigenous co-workers living in those three relatively small urban conurbations.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF THE BORDER ON ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL LIFE REGIONALLY AND MORE WIDELY

Ireland is unique in the Eurozone with its advantage of a special relationship with the United Kingdom. This is aided by a shared language of trading, a direct land border and the Pepper's ghost of political and diplomatic life whereby any all-island parties are eligible to find themselves in a position to determine governance, budget allocation and policy making throughout the islands of Britain and Ireland by simultaneously holding seats in government at the Palace of Westminster, the Houses of the Oireachtas and at Stormont's Northern Ireland Assembly.

Business people and economists north and south of the border are clear that there is a desire to find new financial ways to connect private stock with public investment opportunities. At the time of writing, there is increased potential to achieve long-term growth and productive investment as borrowing costs drop, stocks and bond yield percentages improve, unemployment is cut and the potential for new apprenticeships and a reinvigoration of the economy is strengthened by reforming and renewing our relationship with both a new home-grown and a migrant workforce. The potential brought by the 2011-2015 Programme for Government's commitment to "include social clauses in all public procurements contracts for supplies, services and constructions" brings with it the potential not just to go some considerable way to fulfil the NI Executive's aim of eradicating child poverty by 2020 and addressing the challenges facing NEETS, but also to strengthen the work experience and training of the community sector in the South.

In order to maximise all-island benefits, it has long been recognised that there is a need for a better configuration of economic policies, (Bradley 2006) and a more integrated approach to improving competitive advantage through the alignment of working practices which the border does not currently allow.

Despite the physical border no longer being highly visible, the psychological division it represented in 1921 still lingers and maintains a virtual boundary and barrier across economic, social and cultural life. It remains a symbol of personal and collective trauma in the psyche of many, created after a brutal and divisive era in Irish, British and European history which was marked by written covenants and proclamations accompanied by bloody sacrifices. And, 50 years later in the 1970s, both its policing and its circumvention marked the period most red in tooth and claw between citizens and States North and South.

The legacy of this resonates today. Not just with the practicalities of conducting cultural and social activities for citizens on both sides of the border. Be that trying to access hospice, palliative care or radiation and cancer treatments, or to access goods and services for those in or seeking same sex marriages. But also as part of a meta-narrative on the island that shapes how both regions' shared histories of division and segregation, of loyalties and betrayals, of battles and insurgencies are now being marketed and communicated to visitors.

Tourism Northern Ireland's role is to promote the six counties of the North within the island whereas Tourism Ireland's role is sell the island in its entirety externally. Both draw on the same stock illustrations of outstanding and remarkable imagery to promote a wealth of environmental, cultural heritage and leisure pursuits. Yet while both have grappled with the issue, neither have yet found a way to incorporate a strategic and inclusive narrative in relation to places and spaces that satisfy the indigenous and international visitors' hunger for the history and theatre of the conflict in and about the North. Consequently, what academics refer to as a 'Dark Tourism' industry, is instead supported by the state through the pageantry and architecture of 'long ago' battles and by the interactive experiences at visitors' centres marking the tragedies of the Titanic, the Famine, the Flight of the Earls and other social historical loss-related experiences. Similarly, in the sphere of arts and commemorative events, those experiences which address the Battle of the Somme and the Easter Rising are attracting record audiences.

The use and promotion of tours of venues such as the former Crumlin Road gaol, (now an award winning Conference and Visitor Centre) as the location from which tourism conferences and symposia are held to encourage inward investment,⁶ appears to be altering any shying away from the conflict for material gain. The architectural restoration has seen the brutality of its narratives repainted and re-sanitised to an acceptable level of violent historical distance. It has an arm's length connection and inter-dependency to the sub-industry of interface and political mural tours (principally supplied by political activists, often former combatants and prisoners) for conference and hotel and cruise-ship guests. This indicates that the re-cycling of such iconic buildings has changed and changed utterly the way in which the recent political past is thought of as having viable economic and social capital for tourism. What remains, however, are the moral challenges of capitalising on this. Not least in how to address dealing with the past without a Disney-fication and a show-and-tell simplification of complex tragedies still in living memory.

Sport

Within sporting arenas there is a nuanced context in how some elite level team and individual sports are engaged in, that leads its audiences and players directly back to constitutional allegiances. The border provides a clear example of how competition at a provincial, regional and a national level can be both a healthy and an unhealthy force, both divisive and unifying.

Sport and the nomenclature and symbols associated with it are viewed in the North as highly political statements. The territorial identification, and the intertwining of Gaelic sports and boxing with Republican politics is longstanding. Members of the Irish

⁶ 28th January 2016 Tourism Promotion for 200 delegates hosted by Tourism NI and Northern Ireland Screen

Amateur Boxing Association (IABA) the current governing authority of the sport on the island are opposed to the creation of a Northern Ireland sister body despite being the subject of allegations of sectarianism. And there is political hay being made with a number of clubs seeking to be represented by a Northern Ireland sports council with a view to competing internationally as British rather than Irish⁷. The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), too, clearly has a strong northern consciousness where there is a sense of difference in the two jurisdictions not just within the organisational and body politic, but also in a style of play, with characteristics that are somewhat distinct in the North to that in the South.

Recent rebranding, professionalising and conscious efforts by new chairs, their boards and executives provide an opportunity for reforming the administration and culture within some sporting bodies to address the more negative and exclusive (and in some cases sectarian) politicised attitudes within sporting associations and their fan base. This in turn, can impact on the membership growth, ticket sales at home, inter-provincial and cross-border games and a concomitant impact on the marketing of sports. Consequently, the identity crisis and political sensitives facing Tourism Ireland and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board some years ago, appears to present a similar challenge to some professional and amateur elite athletes whose sense of self and place can be disturbed by external forces.

Developing attitudinal change to address negative aspects of allegiance in competitive and non-competitive sports between and within players (who in turn become the volunteers and professionals within the sports) and the audiences that enjoy their efforts, is consciously being addressed. It is happening in schools as part of the curricula, and by sports and youth-based organisations through their commitment to personal development, good relations training and exchanges. Those such as the Peace Players International, the Dame Mary Peters Trust and the Ocean Youth Trust, for example, are supplementing the work with schools and clubs providing young athletes with emotional and practical training support. This includes raising awareness of the diversity, equality and rights, to enable them to compete and enjoy fully the athletic experience of belonging to and building positive, respectful relationships with others from both Irish and British-based teams and clubs.

It is difficult to generalise about the impact of the border on the economic and social aspects of sporting life. There are contrasting cultures of participation and competition associated to each sport and those engaging in them which do not lend themselves to comparison.

The last decade has seen a growth and regulation of newer activities on the Island including those referred to as Extreme Sports, as hand to hand combat and as mixed martial arts. These categories of sports provide a new lens and stimulus through which young people are able to respond to assertive marketing, and sponsorship strategies aimed at a different culture

⁷ <http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/ulster-boxing-clubs-united-in-battle-to-fight-as-british-1-6591322>
sourced 20th January 2016

of team-building, exhibition and showmanship from those taking place in the island's more established sporting and racing arenas. The Extreme Sports Ireland brand operates throughout the 32 counties and provides an A-Z access to extreme sports (from abseiling to zorbing). And while they provide another *oeuvre* for corporate sponsorship to engage with alternative sporting activities, they are also a gateway to participation through their key business managing corporate events, team building activities and catering for stag and hen parties.

Mixed martial arts too brings a distinct user and audience demographic. Last year saw Reebok withdraw and apologise for its UFC 2015 Shirt which showed a picture of the Island that excluded the north and invited audiences to "Show your Allegiance". It was branded as "divisive and insensitive" by the manager of UFC Featherweight champion Conor McGregor, John Kavanagh whose SBG Gyms operate in 16 cities North and South and are affiliated to the worldwide organisation operating in 60 other locations world-wide.

Along with EU equality directives, Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998), places statutory duties on public authorities to address inequalities. These and other mechanisms in place within the public and community sector in the north measure and account for building good relations between those of diverse backgrounds including holding different political and religious beliefs. But there remains no such imperatives within the private sector north and south (despite the desire for the implementation and enforcement of social clauses in public procurement at government level). Consequently social commitment to building good relations is not sufficiently mirrored or monitored in the economics of private enterprise. As a result of not monitoring good relations, developers, retailers and service industry providers can sometimes find their bottom lines, commercial interests and intentions are undermined and boycotted at community level. Traditional sectarian divisions and associations can be inferred or imposed by customers, residents and suppliers to what might otherwise be seemingly neutral business-related practices.

It is not new for the wearing of sportswear to be seen as provocative. The retail licensed trade has traditionally been mindful of rivalry in competitive sports on certain match days. But it is now increasingly 'inflammatory' and 'offensive' – akin to the 'aggravating' waving of a national flag. The surge in sports wear as fashion items marks a distinct change in how confidence has grown in publicly displaying a political identity as much as it is an indicator of team allegiances. There are now increasing numbers of blanket bans being placed on the wearing of any sporting items not just across the hospitality and leisure sectors but also within schools and other spaces where young people congregate. This is being enforced by those providing private security services to these venues. This includes the wearing of any Irish Football Association branded clothing for either the Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland teams.

A wide range of bespoke embroidered and printed items catering for diverse educational and sporting institutions island-wide is supplied by indigenous companies and stockists online as well as in retail outlets also operating island-wide. Yet the use, manufacture and wholesale distribution of these items is determined in part by organisational culture and traditions based on a heritage of division not simply on the grounds of commercial procurement decision-making. Multi-nationals Kukri, Nike, Adidas and Umbro are frequently the first port of call as suppliers over indigenous companies providing the same services for many state schools and clubs in the North for their soccer, cricket, rugby union (and league), athletics, netball, basketball and hockey kits.

O'Neill's, originally formed in Dublin in 1918 to manufacture Gaelic balls, is the largest sportswear manufacturing company in Ireland. It is an all-island company with in excess of 560 employees, administrative bases both north and south, and manufacturing plants in Strabane and Dublin. It is one of a few Irish companies involved in the production of its own fabric and has knitting, dying, print and sewing operations. A range of clubs, universities and schools throughout Great Britain providing the same sporting opportunities as those in the North of Ireland chose to invest in kit from O'Neill's ensuring a wearing of the green north south east and west on both islands. However the clothing and logo is dominated in Northern consciousness with a particularly ferocious nationalism epitomised by the GAA. It has been exacerbated this year by its prominent marketing of a 1916 commemorative top bearing the Proclamation. (This, in the spirit of commercial competitiveness), has been copied and counterfeited outside the island and is currently being retailed in the heartland of republican sentiment in Belfast's An Cheathrú Ghaeltachta). O'Neill's has grown exponentially with its ascribed and attributed political associations having some considerable impact on its sales direction and reach.

IMPACT OF RECESSION AND POLITICAL TENSIONS ON AREAS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CO-OPERATION

The 2007/8 financial crisis saw the Irish banking system in bail out, yet it is now part of the fastest growing European economy working in an open and ‘real’ international economy. Today, the financial services sector in Dublin is a thriving international hub providing an advantageous location for investment and reinvestment opportunities particularly for those wishing to use English as the principal language of trading and who wish to work in a similar timeframe as London’s stock exchange. However access to markets is a key requirement. Start up and less established entrepreneurs who have been turned down by more risk averse traditional lenders are now turning to new business models in the financial sector to stop a gap between bankers and the support traditionally provided to them by arm-chair angels wishing for traction before they invest such as online platforms providing seed and crowd-funding.

Economic growth and overall price levels are improving on both sides of the border and it has been suggested that we are now entering a ‘proper’ development cycle with the pain of bad loans now finished.

Though lagging behind the South, CBINI suggest that per capita, Northern Ireland is the most successful region outside London in attracting FDI with significant potential to increase this. The NIE has made a commitment to reduce Corporation tax to 12.5% from April 2018 and VAT for hospitality is 20% in Northern Ireland as opposed to 9% in the South. It is as important how customers and service users respond to the flexibility and implications of multi-nationals on both sides of the border administering and implementing these taxes as it is that there is an equivalence in rates North and South.

When Air Passenger Duty (APD) was scrapped in Dublin, the first six months saw “a 47% hike in Northern Ireland passenger numbers⁸”

The most taut of political tensions for those who lived through the conflict in the North, remains how (or if) to build reconciliation between citizens. But when you add into this mix that the recent Northern elections indicated a continued reduction in a pan-nationalist turnout for parties that has been evident since 2007⁹, and significant wins for both People before Profit and the Green Party, it would appear that the latest first world problem to face the Rory McIlroy generation, is that of how to demonstrate a choice for a political identity irrespective of constitutional allegiances. For them, dealing with the past has primarily been superseded by building for the future.

It is these identity quandaries that provide the backdrop and context in which the European Union provides over €3 billion structural funds and over €1 billion peace-related financial support to communities North and South with a particular focus on border counties (Murphy: 2014).

⁸ See McNeill 2015

⁹ <http://sluggerotoole.com/2016/04/30/assessing-the-nationalist-battle-in-ae16/> Sourced 30 April 2016

As the focus of the economic and social components of the Interrreg and Peace Programmes has developed, so too have their legacies and reach. The early programmes' focus on redressing economic imbalances and reintegration and job creation cross-border (not least for former prisoners, political activists and their families), has remained consistent, yet Peace IV has widened out. Rather than principally dealing with the legacy of the past by looking backwards, it appears to have a particular focus on building for the future to ensure reconciliation between other victims and survivors of the conflict with an increased focus on young people, education and training.

Yet for the majority of the island's citizens, there is still a climate of budget reductions, austerity and the adverse impact of welfare cuts in which they are making their way into a post-recession (and post conflict) light alongside (rather than in the shadow of) Britain.

The number of organisations providing services to those who are vulnerable or in need as a result of the conflict, or 'Troubles', has grown exponentially over the past 10 years. The Victims' sector is transforming from comprising volunteer-led groups fuelled primarily by cups of tea and the goodwill and ethos of mutual assistance provided by neighbours or colleagues, into a professional, increasingly regulated and highly politicised, fractured and predominantly divided sector. The recession, welfare reforms and changing political climate continue to have a destabilising impact on the sector and a number of the initial, smaller groups have disbanded as others have become stronger, more proficient and practiced in lobbying and advocacy work. The Victim and Survivor Service (VSS) currently works on a cross-border basis and will be lead partner for the element of the Peace IV programme that relates directly to the welfare and social support programmes provided for victims and survivors. The VSS's role includes the financing and oversight of the governance and financial management of its funded bodies. It provides a range of services, training and networking in relation to building resilience, forming alliances and encouraging partnership working to improve mental health and wellbeing across society and in turn allow for a greater understanding of the impact of the trans-generational resonances of division and conflict. In an attempt to transition recipients from a traumatic past into a more positive, peaceful and reconciled shared future, it will administer the budget of Euros 17.6 Million. It will act as a central repository for the distribution of funds to the hundreds of individual victims and the community groups providing direct services to them on both sides of the border.

In the North, the economy continues to be described as somewhat 'false' with its reliance on Exchequer, European and other public funding sources that bring a particular ethos and implications across the employment and investment spectrum.

Within the construction industry there, the development of city centre student and hotel schemes is being forward funded by the quasi-public sector (such as the Universities and City Council). It would benefit from a healthier private sector input with a greater focus on 'Grade A' office schemes.

The not-for profit, voluntary and community sectors comprises a significant part of the economy and the workforce and, along with local government, academia, the law and security services, are as dependent on public funds as those not in work and those in work who are also reliant on benefits.¹⁰

Irish growth outperformed the rest of Europe in 2014 and 2015. If the current demographic trends continue the island of Ireland will have risen its population of 6.4 to 10 million within the next 50 years. Danny McCoy considers this anticipated demographic and economic growth evidence of the need for a radical and prioritised rethinking of both the built environment and for infrastructural investment in transport, health, energy, environmental, education and the telecoms sector to which end IBEC is currently working with the CBI to identify potential all-island investment projects.

Even during the 'crash' the South's tech sector continued with its boom and has now taken off as a key global market player, whereas in contrast, the North tended to plod along with limited sectoral success and a less productive environment. And while the NIE claims the economy is the number one priority – the political tensions and 'carve up' culture that exists as a result of a focus on short-term electoral cycles between key political parties remains a significant component in how the North responds to infrastructural and programme development needs.

Agri Food Business

Agriculture and food would appear to be lower on a scale of Brexit imperatives for discussion by Westminster than Stormont. There are significant historical and political differences in this sector, but it is culturally interesting that whilst the bulk of the more successful and better off professional farmers in the North are unionist, economically many UFU members may consider the value in branding themselves as Irish.

One of the biggest integrated collaborations with lots of all-Island economic drivers for cooperation comes from within the agri-food businesses. The food industry in the North is worth £4 Billion and employing directly 20,000 people according to Invest NI. (Thompson 2013). In terms of sustaining economic cooperation and competition between North and South, the implications of Brexit are potentially substantial in this sector. The volatility of commodity prices followed by the prevailing weakness of the euro against the pound are causes for some concern for the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association, but they have considerable concerns in relation to Brexit (Canning 2016).

¹⁰¹⁰ "Fears over a growing culture of dependency" Victoria O'Hare (Belfast Telegraph 28.02.2016)

Historically one of the benefits North and South of EU membership has been a transfer of funds from the centre to rural areas. The Rural Development Programme and access to funding over longer periods of time through the European Investment Bank have all been crucial to building and sustaining the sectors. And, irrespective of the Brexit outcome, the total catch levels and quota share outs of joint fish stocks in the fishing industry that often pre-occupies Norway's relationship with Europe is significant in terms of relationships between fishermen and fishing concerns on and in waters around the island and will remain subject to international law through the UNLOSC.

CAP receipts in Northern Ireland are almost three times higher than in Great Britain (Murphy 2014). Approximately 50% of Irish Agricultural exports go the United Kingdom and the South of Ireland is the biggest market for UK food (Including that from Northern Ireland¹¹ and there would be considerable impact on agricultural exports from both regions if regulations were to be changed.

This sector is heavily dependent on EU support and markets, with common regulations key to the single market (for example in terms of GM crops, feed additives, banned hormones or the spraying of meat with chemicals) and in terms of keeping food prices down, not least through the use of quotas. Protecting the integrity and safety of the food supply through traceability is an all-Island imperative according to Chris Elliott of QUB. In Northern Ireland the sector accounted for 5.2% of the Northern GVA in 2014, whereas the figure in the UK was 2.1%¹². So any negative consequences of Brexit for agriculture, food and drink processing is perhaps likely to be felt less in England than in Ireland.

The Republic is in some terms, ahead of the North in certain markets. There is still a residual impact of the ban on beef not being applicable in the Republic whereas it was in the UK during the BSE crisis. In both areas, the artisan foods and craft beverages 'slow' market is an all-Island operation which has seen some considerable growth in recent times with public confidence in 'hipster' markets authenticating the hand-created component of artisan food production. The Financial Times (Thompson 2013) quotes a 2011 Mintel report forecasting speciality food markets in Ireland to be worth €615 million (with NI accounting for more than a quarter of that figure). It suggests that interest in artisan food has increased due to higher consumer interest in food provenance, health and environmental concerns coupled with a stronger desire to support the local economy. O'Connor (2015) in a later report for Mintel into Artisan food in Ireland explores this further indicating butchery and bakeries as the highest growth areas for those seeking 'slow' food consumption options.

¹¹ Daithi O'Ceallaigh "Benefits North and South of EU Membership – Historical and Contemporary Context" talk given at Cross Border Studies *Bordering Between Unions Conference* 18/19 February 2016, Crown Plaza Hotel Dundalk

¹² Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, "Northern Ireland Agri-food sector: key statistics" (June 2015), <https://www.dardni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/northern-ireland-agri-food-sector-key-statistics-2015-final.pdf>. Sourced 30.4.2016

Participation in the virtual on line investment programme run by Seeders saw former social work graduate turned deli-counter worker access £80,000 seed funding for a 40% stake in his business. He developed his County Down-based Mike's Fancy Cheese brand to be the only manufacturer in Ireland making raw milk blue cheese. His "Young Buck" is developed from an old Stilton recipe. Investors benefitted from a 50% income tax break allowed under the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

The arts provide a powerful platform for expression and for delivering social change, not simply as forms of entertainment and education. They are widely endorsed as a key agents to improving social outcomes including tackling poverty and disadvantage. Along with their support of the economy, the worth of the arts and cultural heritage is clear in relation to their entertainment and educational benefits. They are increasingly valued as having broader and positive societal consequences including enhancing wellbeing, addressing social exclusion for the vulnerable, and promoting equality. They are a widely quoted social measurement within local and international policy and strategy¹³ and will be a core component in the new Northern Ireland Ministerial Department for Communities (DfC), providing a unique link and cohesive force to further the priorities and functions of the department.

In the South, the first national cultural policy, Culture 2025, proposed by An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltacha, focussed on asking the explicit question of its consultees in 2015: "What more can be done to strengthen North/South ties in the culture area?"¹⁴

The hosting of the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in 2013 for the first time in the North was a legend and significant feature of Derry's City of Culture scheduling. Core to its programming was the diversity of and cultural recognition of the diversity of traditional music on the island. Its planning was all-inclusive with the shared desire of the Derry Comhaltas and the Ulster Scots Agency for the symbolic inclusion and showcasing of pipe bands, Lambeg drums and the shared jigs and reels from both the majority musical traditions in the north.

Stringent departmental cuts within the arts sector have resulted in the demise of some companies and a reduction in the overall capacity of others. Through the North-

¹³ See: Party manifestos, Programme for Government, Delivering Social Change, Together: Building a United Community and the UN Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression; Utilising the Arts to Combat Disadvantage (2014); NESF Report 35 The Arts, Cultural Inclusion and Social Cohesion (2007)

¹⁴ See also Myerscough (1996) Forbairt (1998) Everett (2000) Unlocking Creativity (2000).

South Working Group of the Northern Ireland Arts Council and An Chomhairle Ealaíon there are mechanisms in place to oversee audience development by way of jointly funded organisations and the funding of a range of north south tours and dissemination of work as well as the oversight of large scale co-projects, such as the Heaney Legacy. They are jointly seeking appropriate partnerships from the public and private sector.

Of particular significance (but as yet under researched and evaluated) in a divided society, is the capacity and utilisation of art forms to promote, market, advocate for, raise awareness of and deliver political change. Artists, venues and producers in the north operate in an environment in which funding for the creation and exhibition of events drawing on subjects related to the conflict and the constitution is prevalent. This in turn enables audiences to have access to multiple opportunities to develop a sophisticated and focussed response to a range of art forms offering processes of critical political engagement and reflection.

The costs of the arts sees a very low per capita spend both North and South compared to the GB regions. Yet it is evident how access to events and funding benefits artists and their audiences across both regions is greatly enhanced within a broader European context, by the sharing of facilities and programming as a result of being able to play the two region partnership. Collaborations between artists and arts organisations North and South are hampered by cuts in public funding for the arts and a very limited culture of philanthropy, with private sponsorship appearing to be primarily constrained territorially by the border.

The two key institutional administrators for the delivery, support and advocacy of for the arts North and South are the respective arms-length bodies, the Arts Councils whose work includes support through grant giving, public art, the film industry, capital development, and the support of local and national cultural institutions and interventions to support artists. Ministerial, political and operational sensitivities, which may prove problematic in one jurisdiction, (for example, in relation to the creation and nomenclature of a National Gallery in the North to house both indigenous and other acquisitions), do not detract from the organisations' desire or capacity to co-work together through the North South Working Group. They have developed a range of all-Island connections from research into the living and working condition of artists on the island (McAndrew and McKimm 2010) through the co-funding of high profile touring performances, such as those between the Abbey and the Lyric Theatres and into the core funding of a range of organisations.

Organisations jointly funded by the Northern Ireland Arts Council and An Chomhairle Ealaíon include (but not exclusively): The Irish Traditional Music Archive which preserves the heritage of and promotes public education in the fields of Irish traditional music and dance; the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in County Monaghan, a residential workplace for artist supporting and facilitating creativity for up to 18 professional artists across a range of disciplines; Camerata Ireland which nurtures classical music

talent through the presentation of Irish chamber music ensembles; Poetry Ireland, the national organisation dedicated to promoting poetry in performance and publication across the island; Visual Artists Ireland a membership body for professional artists providing services, facilitates, resources and advocacy initiating projects and publications on their behalf.

THE DYNAMIC, DRIVERS AND LIMITATIONS OF CROSS BORDER NETWORKING

The dynamics and drivers and limitations of cross-border networking are not always clear. On a very practical level, whilst principal cities throughout the Island can connect more successfully with Dublin and Belfast, there is not yet a satisfactory transport network that effectively connects the regions and other cities.

Strategic and operational decisions in the private sector are fundamentally subject to economic drivers such as in the purchase by Craigavon's Almac, (one of the biggest Northern Ireland employers within the field of medicine), of Athlone-based Arran Chemicals. But they can also relate to a range organisational cultures and personal preferences, with choices being made based on a range of loyalties and aspirations unclear to the uninitiated or inexperienced investors and observers.

There are a range of mechanisms which support different levels of public sector harmonisation of cross-border working for example in policing and criminal justice agencies, in relation to people trafficking and dissident Republican activity. And in the field of Health, the Institute for Public Health in Ireland supports the development of public policy North and South to address the social determinants of health and reduce health inequalities. They call for an all-island approach¹⁵ to addressing the spread of infectious diseases such as TB and HIV to which they find particular groups vulnerable, including migrants, some ethnic groupings and the socially disadvantaged. (Doherty: 2016)

There is further work to be done to align hospital co-working and practical co-operation in terms of palliative care and other specialist treatments, including mental health service provision.

Decisions made within cross-border departmental and public sector working require high levels of transparency and accountability to ensure that public confidence in their capacity to deliver is sustained. The role of the secretariat and officials of the North South Joint Ministerial Council is overseeing the bureaucracy of equitably furthering complementary but separate strategies from both areas as well as shared, large public/private infrastructural projects being undertaken on a cross-border basis.

The least-well funded of sectors and working with limited resources with those who are most vulnerable is the charity and not-for profit organisations. Some are restricted to the jurisdictions in which they were constituted, others are able to straddle the border. Differentials in official and informal data collection is something of a muddy puddle for those attempting to address what any cross border correlation might be, not least in housing.

¹⁵ <http://www.publichealth.ie/news/press-release/%E2%80%9Cinfectious-diseases-know-no-borders%E2%80%9D-all-island-approach-required-tackle-health>

Housing

There are growing number of homeless people throughout the island and increased numbers of those being accepted into public housing. The use of temporary accommodation is rising North and South and with welfare reforms this is set to continue. In the year to March 2016 11,202 of those who presented as homeless met the Northern Ireland Housing Executive eligibility and priority needs tests. This is in stark contrast to the Irish 2011 Census figures of 3,808¹⁶ pointing to the challenges of disaggregating and making comparisons in data collection.

Since 2002 in Dublin and 2005 in Belfast the de Paul Society has been providing 'first of their kind' homeless and preventative support. Through residential and community based provisions for individuals and families they particularly embrace the growing number of those who are intravenous drug users, street drinkers and those engaged with criminal justice agencies including the provision of the only step-down unit on the island for women leaving prison. Their work has grown exponentially. They have chosen to adapt to respond to homelessness and those who are vulnerably housed, with those whose lives are impacted by demographic change and austerity as a result of repossession, deregulation of private accommodation, and the ongoing impact of the accession states. The anomalies the organisation experienced in each jurisdiction in procedures, terms and conditions and legislation can result in a duplication of resources which proves frustrating for the Senior Management. It also gives opportunities for reflection on a range of issues such as how to improve service delivery and the need for more appropriate policy development in how local authorities and public sector agencies partner in the design and management of service level agreements impacting homeless people in both jurisdictions.

Health

With over 200,000 people in the North (1 in 9) currently in receipt of disability benefits¹⁷ and a service in the South that is challenging to access for those who unable to afford private health care, the sectors have very different push and pull factors. One of the

¹⁶ Of the 4,588,252 persons enumerated in the State on Census Night, April 10 2011, 3,808 were either counted in accommodation providing shelter for homeless persons or were identified sleeping rough. These results are based on a targeted approach aimed at measuring the extent of homeless persons in Ireland – the first time such a comprehensive approach to measuring homelessness was adopted as part of a Census of Population.

http://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/census/documents/homelesspersonsinieland/Homeless_person_s,in,Ireland,A,special,Census,report.pdf accessed 30 April, 2016

¹⁷<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/210000-people-claiming-dla-in-northern-ireland-34483824.html>

drivers for cross-border working in health is the need for greater standardisation and accessibility of services.

The North South Ministerial Council Health and Food Safety meetings provide an oversight of strategy development in both regions. It has ensured a range of hospital co-working and practical cooperation in terms of palliative care and other specialist treatments. Though there is still some considerable way to go in terms of accessing mental health care services. Suicide prevention is one of the areas where there are two separate strategies and where good working is being carried out side by side on both sides of the border, but where joint strategies are not to be implemented. This can impact on the potential for on-going community work and proposals

Flourish!, an initiative on suicide developed by the Lighthouse Suicide Prevention organisation has been supported in the North by the Public Health Agency and developed with the support of the Christian churches in who see it as a valuable resource for integration into their pastoral care. The initiative brings together a range of health care providers, clergy and lay people working within the faith and health care and sectors who are actively seeking partnerships in the South.

People living with disabilities on the island tend to benefit from a range of services in keeping with European directives. Those which are not currently aligned across the border include access to cash machines and banking services, ticket and check in machines, e-commerce, smart phones and digital televisions, all of which provide those services that can greatly enhance the lives of those with physical disabilities. For those with hearing impairments and those who are profoundly deaf, BSL is found to be used throughout the island and beyond. And there are also a significant number of people who acquire a separate, strong cultural bonding with the use of a distinct Irish sign language.¹⁸

Media and Screen Entertainment

Since 1997, when the Irish Times reported 120 companies working within the multi-media sector employing 2,000 people, the sector has grown exponentially²⁰. This brings some strong good secondary all-Island implications including:

- the raising of a 'brand all Island' profile;
- the skilling up of a shared workforce;
- secondary spend into the local economy;

¹⁸ <https://www.deafhear.ie/DeafHear/informationAndResourcesFacts.html> sourced 25.02.2016

¹⁹ <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/multimedia-jobs-to-grow-as-giants-lose-their-grip-1.129754> sourced 25.02.2016

²⁰ <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/multimedia-jobs-to-grow-as-giants-lose-their-grip-1.129754> sourced 25.02.2016

- a spin off for tourism initiatives;
- the scaling up of international production.

For many years there were two relatively discrete and separate broadcast and print media constructs in the north and south regions. It can be seen now, however, that the media is playing an increasing role in mediating socially and culturally across the border. Changes in influence, reach and aspirations of the state and private media outlets in the two jurisdictions are interesting. For many years, there tended to be something of an hermetically sealed set of concerns within broadcast and print media (other than in relation to security issues).

Significant though small-scale social capital could be accrued north and south by the exceptions to this self-containment, such as RTE's all-island School Choir competition prompting and fostering musical talent, cultural exchange and social networking in the education sector across the border until it too was 'de-commissioned' after 10 years active service. Fergal Keane's 2011 "The Story of Ireland", co funded by Bord Scannán na h'Éireann and Northern Screen was networked on both BBC and RTE, marketed and sold internationally. It provided an alternative historical narrative to the Island's past to that which in the 1980s Robert-Kee had reflected in his "Ireland, A Television History" where the island was primarily depicted as a prisoner and victim of history, at war with its neighbours and its northern selves. Conversely, Keane presented the Island's identity as being international and forward-thinking and one whose migration and immigration fortunes have had positive world influence for over 2,000 years.

As a direct result of European co-funding, distribution incentives and enlightened thinking by some broadcasters, there continues to be a growth in box office, trade sales and festival exhibition of international award winning documentary, light entertainment and drama co-pros between the state broadcasters and independent production companies. This has significantly impacted the transformation of the public sphere not least in the use of language on screen.

While some in the north still have to seek out much of RTE's output, the expansion of channels and non-terrestrial broadcast mechanisms to the island has seen both this limited access issue addressed and an invigoration of the market. And, as a result of active state *gestaltungsgarantie* by Comhairle Theilifís na Gaeilge, and an increased awareness of freedom of speech rights, there are significant benefits north, south and Europe—wide presented with the growth of talent by TG4 and BBC Gaeilge in relation to language and programme making. Their output provides clear examples of how the individual nuances and complications that come as a result of two administrations and tax systems, in some areas of work, can also work to facilitate cross-border fertilisation in skill's building, creativity, production and talent development along with re-building and invigorating a pan-national cultural heritage.

In the mediums of print and broadcast journalism, there is an increased reporting of 'southern' events in Northern Ireland and vice versa. This is likely to continue to increase with now two cross border parties and a green party active in both

jurisdictions bringing more political common reference points to bear in each area. While there is a healthy tradition of state broadcasters lampooning politicians in carefully scripted programmes, it is noteworthy that unlike the North where the chicaneries of public and private sector business tends to be a virtual and unregulated on-line community-led phenomenon, the South has The Phoenix magazine. This high-street newsagent staple which (though not intentionally partition-ist), is focussed on the south and has contributed to debates about existing challenges facing cross border collaborations. It has, for example, put pressure on the Dublin film industry when shoots go north. And this choice of location is likely to increase exponentially with the planting of the Belfast Harbour studio proposal which will double existing production space in the Titanic quarter making the North one of Europe's largest film production locations.

Stakeholders to this process might consider how deep these film and television and television roots are likely to go and spread in terms of the creation of a viable cinematic and broadcast eco-system to benefit the island. There are opportunities to further develop and export the format selling of television productions, with food for thought as to why such a business model is currently under-exploited by local producers and television stations.

As in other areas of work that are reliant on trans-European partnerships to source match funding, the creative and screen industries have found a way to maximise soft funding through tax credits from the two or more countries that make up co-production and are able to play positively the anomalies in the tax system. The cross-border relationship and existing shared working practices can be useful when scaling up cast, crew and production costs. While different packages north and south may result in tax and other incentives being non-incomparable, they can also act as enablers in some cross over in independent production sector. According to Northern Ireland Screen, the strongest players in independent film and broadcast television production are always underpinned by tax credits. Independent production companies, (such as the award-winning Big Mountain) find it beneficial to be located on the border with business addresses in both Dundalk and Newry.

The growth of the screen industries has been more dramatic in the north than in the south in recent years. Since 2007 and Bill Murray and Saoirse Ronan's success with City of Ember, large set pieces including the HBO Game of Thrones has kept international film making in Ireland on the mainstream map and seen a growth in local ancillary and support services from caterers to specialist transport, electrical and construction services alongside creative talent, design, performance and fashion. This is also the case in the field of animation which since the 1980s was a much stronger and more successful discipline in the South. However a culture of 'collegiality over competition' has tended to be a feature of that area of screen entertainment within the island and it has seen its cross-border exchange of talent and creative practice driven by choice as much as by commercial bottom lines. As with some other areas of cross-border arts-led

ventures, partnerships, associations and alliances are as likely to have their roots in existing personal and professional relationships rather than being forged primarily with economic imperatives. The Puffin Rock collaboration, co-financed north and south and creatively spread across the island, is now in its second series of the pre-school animation partnership between Derry/Londonderry-based Dog Ears and the Oscar and Bafta-nominated Kilkenny-based Cartoon Saloon. Cartoon Saloon are also working with another northern company, Belfast-based Paper Owl on a Euro 4 million budget for CBeebies. This will be the first children's series to be made about a central character who is on the Autism spectrum.

THE IMPACT OF BREXIT ON SOCIAL RELATIONS IN IRELAND

Northern Ireland is distinct from other parts of the UK and Ireland. The Barroso Task Force provided the Northern Ireland Executive with a dedicated and direct channel along with the Committee of the Regions and European Parliament representatives, through which to influence policies directly relevant to the North of Ireland. Under the current 2014-20 funding programmes, the North will continue this special relationship with Europe and the total annual income it will receive will average out at approximately £144m per annum via the following programmes:

- a. **2014-2020 EU Investment for Growth and Jobs Programmes**
 - ERDF funding - €308m
 - ESF funding - €205m
- b. **2014-20 Rural Development Programme - €227m**
- c. **Interreg V Programme (2014-20) – (with over two thirds of the €240m anticipated being spent in NI), and**
- d. **Peace IV Programme (2014-20) – €229m**

In addition, the agricultural sector benefits from significant support. In 2015, the first year of the new support arrangements, the year's Basic Payment Scheme, Greening Payment and Young Farmers' Payment was worth around £236 million to local farmers.²¹ Furthermore, the Northern Ireland Executive has set a target of securing £110m from the Horizon 2020 programme over its lifetime (up from around £69m in the last FP7 R&D programme).

Membership of, and independent relationships with, the European Union has brought legislative and cultural changes Island-wide. The common travel area, free movement of people and the growth of free trade has brought significant benefit for economic and social growth on the island.

Bombardier's announcement in February 2016 that its Shorts plant in East Belfast would lose 1080 jobs before the end of 2017 is a bitter aftertaste to its commitment to manufacture 75 new C series planes in Belfast for Air Canada. The aviation industry provides an opportunity for the Island to look outwards and, by its contributions and cooperation, forge relationships across Europe for a greater global impact. With EU membership of the United Kingdom, the aerospace sector on both islands has benefited considerably from being able to draw down research funding through Horizon 2020 and to access pan European supply chains that are critical to the continuation of the sector. Ryanair's service and profits on the back of the breaking the stranglehold of national airlines North and South provided clear and tangible benefits island wide and with distinct East West ramifications that far exceeds benefits to that one Irish company.

²¹ DARD Press release 21 December 2015

British and Irish membership of the EU, has enabled the North and South to increasingly act in concert on a range of internal and external developments pertinent to both jurisdictions. This includes the provision of guarantees of stability in relation to policies and regulatory frameworks and to have access to a single market of over 500 million customers. In the border counties, the longevity of its contribution to peace building and reconciliation in the North and border counties is unprecedented in other areas of Europe. Both Stennet (2016:21 footnotes 38-39) and Burke (2015) quotes An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny at Chatham House giving support for reforms that will enable Britain to stay within the EU. At that same meeting the DFAT Minister recorded that working together with Britain in Brussels “helped us appreciate that we have more in common with one another than with any other member state.”²²

Budd’s (2015) NIA briefing paper estimates a 3% reduction in Northern Ireland’s GDP were Britain to leave the EU. Given that 57% of Northern Ireland exports go to the EU (as opposed to 45% from the UK) and Ireland is the North’s largest export market, Brexit debates clearly resonated for business in the North. A range of oral and written evidence submitted to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee²³ from the regulator of water and energy industries through to the RSPB, have provided evidence of the diversity of concerns about the debate.

A joint programme between Birdwatch Ireland and the RSPB in Northern Ireland, “Halting Environmental Loss Project (HELP)” was launched in 2010. Its objective being to deliver targeted cross-border habitat improvement and management for at risk priority birds and related species across the border counties. Based on their declining numbers and vulnerable conservation status, the key avian species are breeding waders including lapwing, curlew, snipe and redshanks and the non-avian species including Irish lady’s tresses orchids, Northern Colletes bees, slender scotch burnet moths and the Irish damselfly, all of which are associated with farmed landscape. Using a £1.47 million award from the EU INTERREG IVA Programme it has successfully championed conservation management techniques to promote the sustainable recovery of UK BAP wetland species across the border counties. Working with over 500 farms, it has expanded the population and range of breeding waders. Furthermore, by strengthening Birdwatch Ireland and RSPB’s relationships with other rural community stakeholders it has begun a process of promoting wildlife friendly tourism thus highlighting biodiversity’s role in providing a sustainable and diversifying source of income generation for wider rural communities.

²² ‘British-Irish Relations: Implications of a British Exit’, transcript of a speech by Charles Flanagan given at Chatham House, London, 7 September 2015 cited in Burke 2016

²³ <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/northern-ireland-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/eu-referendum/publications/> sourced 30th April 2016

A desire to stay in a reformed EU was expressed by 80% of the North's Confederation of British Industry (CBINI) membership consulted in 2013²⁴ and whilst their views were in the same vein, a somewhat more measured response came from them than from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) who considered that "Brexit makes no economic sense". The Institute suggests that the aggregate impact of reversing trade integration benefits implies that Northern Ireland exports could be down more than 10% and those of the South by about 3%.²⁵ It can be anticipated that the full impact will only be seen after about 10 years if the trend follows that of the Czech and Slovak Republic's experiences whose exports more than halved in the ten years following their 1993 separation.

Brexit creates an opportunity to consider the complex patterns of relationships between the North and South and East and West. It permits a kaleidoscope of uncertainties, risks and unknowns within the political and economic landscapes that come into the view of civic society into a sharper focus. These include not least the potential ramifications to Ireland of the Balkanisation of a United Kingdom and the challenges and permeability of how the North/South border will be managed.

What has become more highlighted for a broader public as a result of Brexit debates, is a more nuanced understanding of the benefits and challenges of Bremaing. Civic society on both sides of the border now has an increased awareness of the potential circle-cycle of political, economic and social consequences of EU exit or other bilateral trade agreements. These include awareness of:

- the impact of non-EU regulations,
- the potential restrictions on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and
- the impact on a strong Dublin-based financial and tech services sectors.

Alongside the oral and written submissions to the NIAC²⁶, Stennett (2016) provides a compelling summary of evidence in relation to both the data of the UK and NI with the EU and an overview of current debates and speculation throughout the island. And while there are those who have taken organisational positions for or against Brexit, the jury for many is still out. The debate paper developed by QUB/UCC (2016) is one of the few papers which focuses specifically on the impact of Brexit on Northern Ireland. It unashamedly owns there are more questions than answers in relation to trade, free movement, the economy, constitutional politics, policies and political cooperation and funding streams. Three distinct areas that have not to date preoccupied those in Great Britain lobbying on both sides of the in/out debate include:

- The Border – The movement of capital and labour, or more precisely trade and people between the North and South, with Northern Ireland the only direct land access into and out of the United Kingdom. The potential introduction of customs and immigration checks will bring an extra cost to businesses and will

²⁴ Nigel Smith Speaker at the Centre for Cross Border Studies "Bordering Between Unions" Conference Crown Plaza Hotel Dundalk 18-19 February 2016 and evidence to the NIAC (see footnote 15)

²⁵ Edgar Morgenroth Speaker at the Centre for Cross Border Studies "Bordering Between Unions" Conference Crown Plaza Hotel Dundalk 18-19 February 2016

²⁶ <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/northern-ireland-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2015/eu-referendum/> sourced 20 April 2016

be a disincentive to cross border movement of goods and people and common supply chains.

- Common Agricultural Policy – There are currently no plans for any CAP replacement and it is noteworthy that Northern Ireland receipts are three times higher than other areas of the UK with food prices likely to rise by 30% with any Brexit.²⁷.
- EU Territorial Cooperation programmes (Interreg and Peace) and the mainstream Structural Fund programmes.

There are a range of other issues for pundits to consider with specific resonances for businesses and citizens alike including the impact on education exchanges, and on:

Energy: in light of an all-island electricity market that has existed since 2007 and the northern dependency on interconnection with and imports from the South to subsidise its deficiency.

Protections: what are the ramifications in relation to employment and consumer protections, not least for those with disabilities without EU regulation?

Environment: in relation to dumping or regulations for habitat, air quality, and a bathing water framework?

Security: as law enforcement agencies currently benefit from the use of the EU watch-list and European Arrest warrant, what will the UK removal of these and from their relationship with Europol and Eurojust mean for justice, law and home affairs; is the North likely to become the weakest link in any fight against terrorism between Britain and other parts of Europe?

²⁷ Ivor Ferguson – Ulster Farmer’s Union talk given at Cross Border Studies *Bordering Between Unions Conference* 18/19 February 2016, Crown Plaza Hotel Dundalk

CONCLUSION

The impact of Brexit and how the concomitant relationship between these islands and Europe will recalibrate remains unclear. Much representation to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee and at academic and public debates and forums remains speculative with ever decreasing hypothetical speculative circles focusing on a potential reduction of cross border cooperation, a decline in peace and reconciliation work, increased or decreased regulation, movement in the CTA and the economy.

Withdrawal from the EU should also be considered in the light of possible economic impacts specific to Northern Ireland, and the extent to which these could be mitigated. The agri-food sector is a more significant contributor to GVA in Northern Ireland than it is in the UK generally. The assumed benefits of reducing Corporation Tax in Northern Ireland below the rate levied in the UK and comparable to that of the Republic of Ireland could be placed in jeopardy if the UK were to leave the EU. A situation would be created where investors would be faced with the choice of similar corporation tax rates in the two jurisdictions of the island of Ireland, but where only one would be a full member of the Single Market.

Throughout Ireland 2016 has been a year of looking back at the events of 1916 in Dublin and on the battle fields of France. These bloody set pieces that achieved so much politically and which are now commemorated with dignity and respect by so many, did without a doubt also sow the seed for fractures in the identity of individuals, families and communities throughout the Island.

These continue to resonate today as clearly as they did when 50 years ago speaking on this site of the need for a sustained reconciliation between Protestants and Catholics North and South, was Terence, The Right Honourable, the Lord O'Neill of the Maine whose father was the first MP to be killed in World War 1. Today, and another 50 years on, we are collectively seizing the opportunity to bridge divides with large headline winning infrastructural projects, with ambitious productive international re-investment and impressive job creation numbers.

But it is also a time for us to collectively reflect on the sustained contributions made by the quiet, good hearted, small, generous, collaborative, anti-sectarian, reconciliatory, work. The paid and the voluntary work of those in the not-for profit sector, of the faith and charity sectors that continues in times of austerity to provide shelter for the homeless and those unable to find or be eligible for statutory support that could adequately provide for their vulnerabilities. And time to remember the small business achievements within communities made by sole traders and family concerns who have farmed and traded and struggled through challenging political and economic times and for whom the returns and investment in their businesses will never compensate for lives or businesses lost as a result of division.



Barra Best
@barrabest

Really feel bad for Spain. Still, very distracted by Moypark adverts around the pitch. #chicken

8:39 PM - 13 Jun 2014

18 RETWEETS 34 FAVORITES



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We sincerely apologise for the offence caused by the UFC Ireland t-shirt. This was a design error and has now been removed.

- RETWEETS **179**
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8:21 AM - 21 Oct 2015



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