The Border Compass Project – Outcomes and New Opportunities for Cross-Border Cooperation

Andy Hallewell, ICBAN, 30 November 2018
The Border Compass Project, March-Nov 2018

• Address challenges of a changing environment
  – Where one jurisdictional area of the Region will be in the EU, while the other prepares to leave

• Incumbent on areas such as the Central Border Region, and organisations such as ICBAN, to respond accordingly

• Engaging with member Councils, stakeholders and Border Communities

• Reaffirming commitments to cross-border cooperation

• Help maintain and build good relations
Engaging With Border Communities

- Citizens’ Voices
- Hard to Reach Groups
  - Women
  - Young People
  - Carers
  - LGBT Community
  - People with Disabilities
- Cross-community / Cross-border
‘Brexit at the Border’
Study, spring 2018

1. Giving a voice to border citizens
2. Recording those voices
3. Ensuring those voices are heard by those involved in high-level negotiations – EU Negotiating Team, Irish, UK and NI Govts.

Practical consequences for border life
What a ‘hard border’ means
Attitudes to proposed technological solutions
Representation on the issues
Priorities for the Brexit negotiations

Partnership: Academic integrity
Trust, respect and responsibility in dealing with a sensitive issue

Online survey
591 respondents
50/50 Male/Female
80% 31-65 years old

Focus groups
49 participants
6 groups

Coverage in 123 media publications worldwide
Not so much avoiding violence, but protecting the peace

If there is a hard border, it will be really difficult for everyone – both up north and here. /

I [would say] think of education and work life. That would be hugely affected. /

I don’t think they understand just how close people actually are to the border. /

You wouldn’t even know you were crossing the border.

(Monaghan Focus Group 2, Ref: 17.47-18.35)
‘Youthful Voices’

- 14–17 year olds
- 29 young people attended 54 workshops
- Cross-border residential, Garton, Donegal, 01/08/2018
- ‘Cross Border Champions’ - OCN Level 3 Accreditation

Topics Discussed:
- Segregation
- Brexit
- Identity
- Conflicts
- Stereotypes
- Working Together
Looking Beyond Our Borders’ Paper

• Countering the consequences of returning to back-to-back development
• Strategies, models and solutions from other border regions of Europe
• Incentives for co-operation in the border region
• Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) Good Practice Paper

• Direct contact with comparable EU/non EU interfaces
  – Poland/Ukraine/Belarus
  – Greece/Turkey
  – Russia/Finland
  – Norway/Sweden
So What? Sustainable Solutions!

53 people attended 3 Sustainable Solutions Workshops

A renewed commitment for future cooperation

- Engagement of young people with elected representatives and statutory functions
- Community Planning Mapping Document + subsequent engagements
- Using the learning from other border regions
- Mechanisms to enhance involvement of both Executive and Democratic functions of Local Government in the Cross-Border Partnership
Where Next?

• Some issues outside the ICBAN Partnership remit
• Continue to navigate what is a rapidly changing environment
• We don’t pretend to have all the answers (and nor should we)

• Build on the Cross-Border Community Planning Linkages
• New mechanisms to engage democratic & executive functions
• Supporting our young Cross-Border Champions
• Maintain contacts
• Maintain our network and help build good relations
A final word to the youth

“It’s all well and good putting in these ‘it’ll sort us out for a few years’ ideas... but there’s no point in doing that if it’s not going to last and it’s going to have to be changed again...”

(Monaghan Youth Focus Group 1, Ref: 42.16)