

CELEBRATING
20 YEARS
1995
2015

OF CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION IN THE CENTRAL BORDER REGION

ICBAN

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2014 | 2015



European Union

European Regional
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Investing in your future

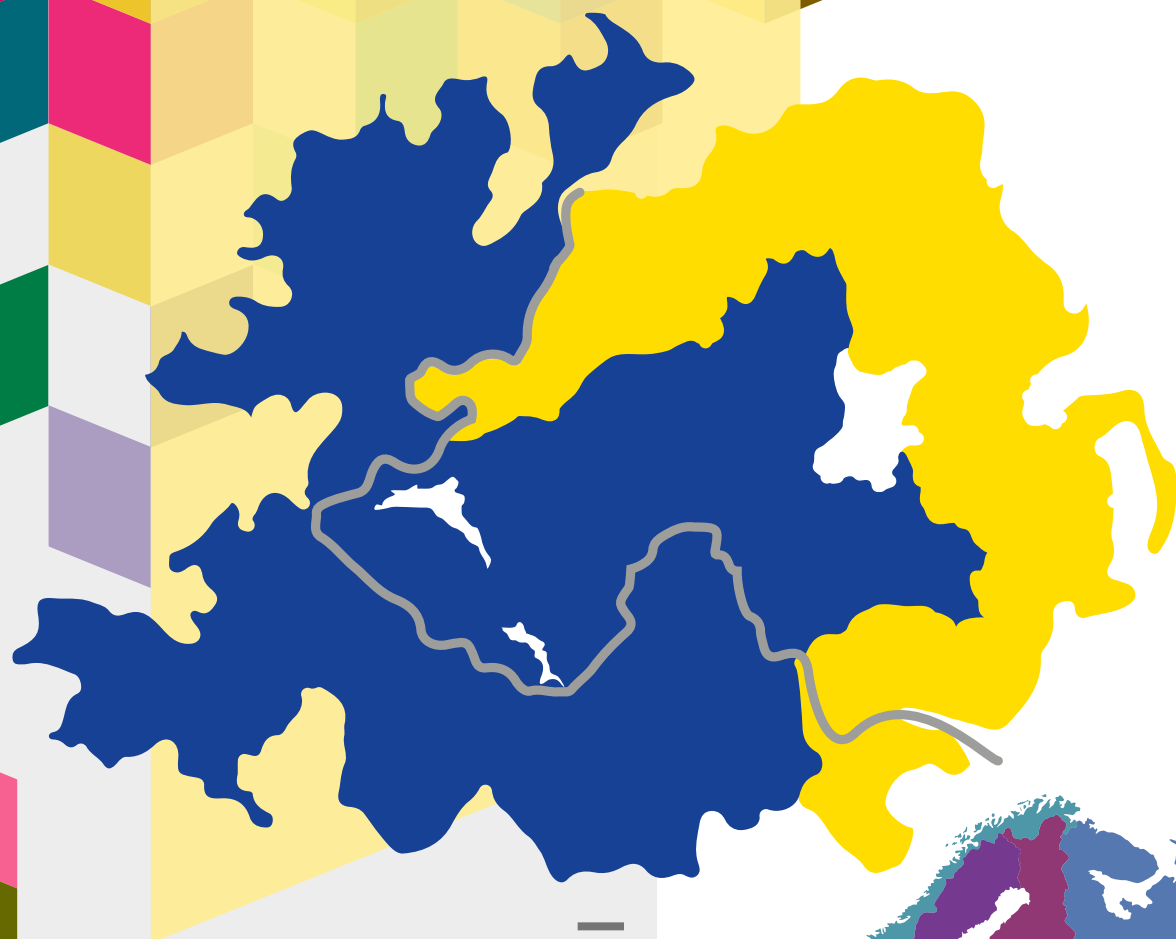
Supported by the European Union's
INTERREG IVA Programme managed by
the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

The Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) Ltd was established in 1995 as a network of Councillors from the Central Border Region, with one common aim: to respond to the unique economic and social needs of the Region. Today, ICBAN is a cross-border partnership of eight Councils from both sides of the border and the focus of ICBAN's work is to enhance the lives of all citizens in the Central Border Region. ICBAN do this through strategic lobbying, identifying what is required to grow the economy and working on a cross-border basis to address these challenges.

Mission STATEMENT

“ To be an active, trusted, informed and innovative partner in delivering Regional and Cross-Border Development for the Irish Central Border Region. ”

The views and opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission or the Special EU Programmes Body.



Central Border Region

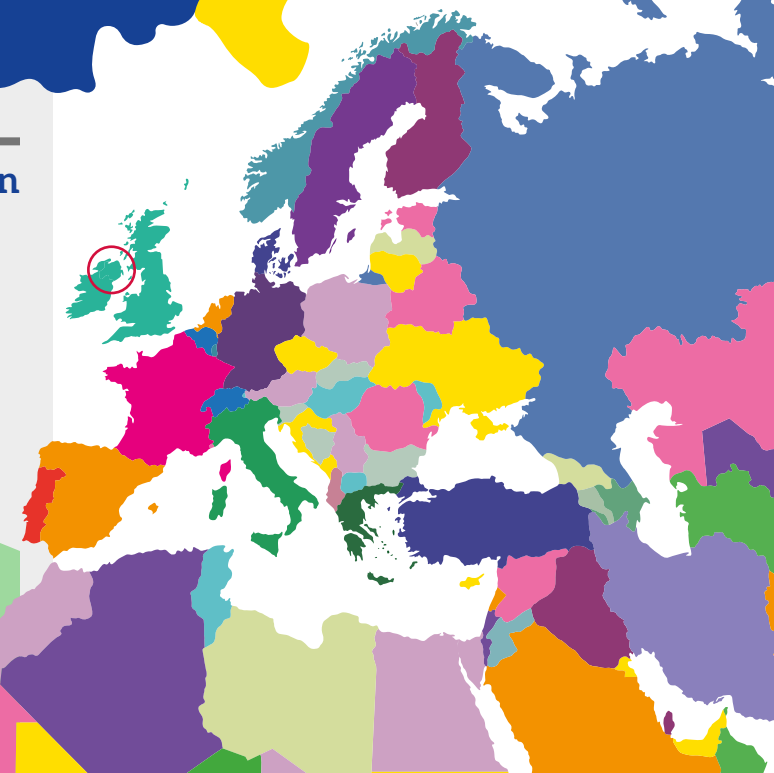


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Chairman's FOREWORD

As Chairman of ICBAN, I am delighted to present the third Annual Activity Report which covers the period from April 2014 to March 2015. This has been a challenging, yet successful year for the organisation. We are now entering the project closure phase of many of our INTERREG IVA funded projects and as such we are beginning to see the positive impact and benefits of the investment made in the Central Border Region. As ICBAN's role as Lead Partner for the INTERREG Programme will cease towards the end of this year, I wish to acknowledge the support and guidance of the Special EU Programmes Body during the roll-out and delivery of INTERREG IVA. A special word of thanks to our Project Partners who have successfully delivered these projects and I wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Since the launch of the Regional Strategic Framework (RSF) in the autumn of 2013, the past year has seen ICBAN's focus shift towards increasing discussions with our European neighbours for the advancement of the Region. The RSF identified the needs of the Region and opportunities to address these needs. This rise in European engagement has included meetings with potential project partners

from Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, England and Scotland. It is anticipated that 2015 will bring further project development opportunities for the Central Border Region.

I would like to sincerely thank my fellow Management Board Members for their ongoing commitment to cross-border co-operation. In particular, I would like to acknowledge my predecessors, Councillors Pat Treanor and Allan Rainey MBE for their dedication to the role during their times as Chairperson for much of 2014/2015.

On behalf of ICBAN, I must thank all the organisations who have supported our work over the past year. A special word of thanks to our member Councils for their continuing support; we look forward to working with them in the coming year on regional priorities.

Finally, my thanks to the ICBAN staff for their ongoing commitment to the organisation and their daily contribution to programme management and development work for the betterment of the Central Border Region.

Councillor Alex Baird, ICBAN Chairman



The Regional Strategic Framework (RSF) was nominated for the prestigious Royal Town Planning Institute's 2014 Planning Excellence Awards

ICBAN is responsible for managing eight projects under the INTERREG IVA Programme across the themes of Enterprise, Tourism and Collaboration to a value of almost €15 million



AT A GLANCE



In 2014/15 over

£1.9 million

was levered through ICBAN projects



The Hive in Carrick-on-Shannon was opened in May 2014 as part of the Innovation Enterprise Programme



ICBAN has developed an EU Funding News and Information Portal for the Central Border Region:
www.icbaneurope.com

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Timeline of **ACTIVITY**



Official Opening of The Hive, Carrick-on-Shannon as part of the Innovation Enterprise Programme by Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD.

MAY 2014



Official Launch of the Cavan Burren Centre as part of the Border Uplands Project by Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan TD.

JUNE 2014

The Regional Strategic Framework (RSF) is nominated for the prestigious Royal Town Planning Institute's 2014 Planning Excellence Awards which took place in London.



JULY 2014



HATCH Students graduate at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast with a specially-designed Advanced Diploma in Management Practice for Foreign Nationals.

SEPTEMBER 2014

Councillor Pat Treanor, ICBAN Chair speaks at the AEBR Conference in Rzeszów, Poland.



The HATCH Closure Event is held in Castle Saunderson, County Cavan.



OCTOBER 2014

ICBAN delegation attends "EU Open Days" in Brussels and meet with local MEPs.



NOVEMBER 2014

DECEMBER 2014



Minister Ann Phelan, TD, presents the Border Uplands Project with an award for the Heritage Council's best Children's Event for Heritage Week 2014.

MARCH 2015



As part of the Harnessing Creativity Project, a Creative Economy Seminar was held in The Dock, Carrick-on-Shannon with a host of national and international speakers.

ICBAN Areas of Activity

- INTERREG Programmes
- EU Engagement

INTERREG IVA Projects

PROJECT	VALUE	THEME	STATUS
Lead Partner	£1,124,051	Collaboration	To complete by 30 September 2015
Innovation Enterprise Programme (IEP)	£3,873,630	Enterprise	Project closure underway
Border Uplands Project	€3,183,804	Tourism	To complete by 30 June 2015
Higher Attainment Through Cross-Border Hubs (HATCH)	€1,000,000	Enterprise	Project closure underway
Spatial Planning Initiative	£1,456,995	Collaboration	To complete by 30 June 2015
Harnessing Creativity	€799,880	Enterprise	To complete by 30 June 2015
Development of Workspace at St Angelo Airport	£1,476,333	Enterprise	Completed in December 2014
Traded Services	€30,000	Enterprise	Completed in July 2011

Innovation Enterprise Programme (IEP)

IEP built on the relationship between Omagh Enterprise Company and the Leitrim Local Enterprise Office in working together to successfully deliver cross-border business support programmes. The IEP included the provision of technology enabled business workspace and cross-border business support services through the construction of the Innovation Growth Centre in Omagh and The Hive Technology Enterprise Centre in Carrick-on-Shannon.

PROJECT PARTNERS

ICBAN (Lead Partner)

Omagh District Council (Lead Beneficiary) – now Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Leitrim County Council

Leitrim County Enterprise Board - now Leitrim Local Enterprise Office

Leitrim County Enterprise Fund

Omagh Enterprise Company

PROJECT VALUE

£3,873,630

PROJECT PERSPECTIVE

“



The opening of the Innovation Growth Centre helped fulfil the company's mission of promoting enterprise

and support start-up and growth businesses. The enterprise centre currently provides accommodation for 65 businesses providing 300 jobs which will now increase to 85 businesses providing 420 jobs.

Dr Nicholas O'Shiel,
Chief Executive,
Omagh Enterprise Company

”

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- The official opening of a high quality, innovative and technology focused incubation unit totalling 7,500 ft² at The Hive in Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim
- 48 jobs supported through workspace in both the Innovation Growth Centre, Omagh and The Hive, Carrick-on-Shannon

PROJECT PERSPECTIVE

“



The Hive officially opened in May 2014, with the aim of facilitating the growth of new and existing technology based-enterprises. The Hive

provides modern telecommunications connectivity with 100mbps of connectivity and high quality workspace for up to 14 SMEs. The workspace is over 90% allocated at present, which is testament to the INTERREG IVA investment in the Innovation Enterprise Programme

Mr Joe Lowe,
Head of Leitrim
Local Enterprise Office

”

- Mentoring support to 93 businesses in the Central Border Region
- 14 collaborations with academic and research institutions

Higher Attainment Through Cross-Border Hubs (HATCH)



The HATCH project supported and developed entrepreneurship in the Central Border Region and delivered targeted accredited training to three key groups which were displaced due to the downward trends in economic performance:

- Construction and Engineering Sector
- Foreign Nationals
- Female Entrepreneurs

PROJECT PARTNERS

ICBAN (Lead Partner)

Cavan County Enterprise Board – now Cavan Local Enterprise Office (Lead Beneficiary)

Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre (Project Management)

South West College (Programme Delivery Partner)

Business Institute Ulster University (Programme Delivery Partner)

PROJECT VALUE

€1,000,000

PROJECT PERSPECTIVE



The HATCH programme was both challenging and rewarding for the partnership. We were challenged to develop bespoke programmes to match the needs of the people from across the three benefiting groups – the construction industry, female entrepreneurs and foreign nationals. We had to deliver to the needs and the wants of individuals and businesses; we had the additional challenge of working cross-border and across a wider geographic area. Working together gave us all an insight into the workings of each other's jurisdictions and made our outputs much stronger and relevant as a result.

The outputs from the programme across the Region speak for themselves. It has been a privilege to work with the HATCH students and project partners.

**Dympna McCarron, Manager,
Cavan Innovation and
Technology Centre**



PROJECT OUTPUTS

- 457 students trained
- 90% retention rates
- 85% accreditation rates
- 24 jobs created within new and existing companies
- 26 businesses assisted
- Business productivity improved and cross-border collaboration enhanced



Pictured L-R: Fiona Brazill, tutor; Garvan Haley, HATCH student; John Moore, South West College.

Seated L-R: Liam Mathers, HATCH student and Dympna McCarron, Manager, CITC.

Spatial Planning Initiative



Central Border Region
Working Together
A Spatial Planning Initiative

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The aim of Spatial Planning Initiative was two-fold: it was about developing a set of co-ordinated future investment priorities for the Central Border Region; as well as developing cross-border working linkages to promote greater collaboration and joined-up regional development.

PROJECT PARTNERS

ICBAN (Lead Partner)

All ICBAN Member Councils

PROJECT VALUE

£1,456,995

PROJECT PERSPECTIVE



The central piece of the Spatial Planning Initiative was the Regional Strategic Framework; which outlined the development of the Central Border Region. The Framework was developed through extensive stakeholder engagement to influence the Governments of Ireland and Northern Ireland and to consider the area as an investment priority. It also highlights and yet at the same time seeks to address the inequalities and social outcomes between the Central Border Region and other regions of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Alongside addressing inequalities that exist within the area, the Regional Strategic Framework will ensure that this Region plays a more involved role within Europe through networking and engaging, as well as securing investments for key initiatives and projects.



Colin McKenna,
Development Manager, ICBAN

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- 1 Roads Study completed with Action Plan
- 1 Telecoms Study completed with Action Plan
- 1 Regional Strategic Framework (RSF) completed
- 1 Data Profile completed
- 1 DataCentral Web Portal created
- 1 Civic & Political Collaboration Programme (9 conferences & 14 seminars)
- 1 Census Implications Study completed
- ICLRD External Engagement Support Contract being delivered
- 1 Communications Strategy being implemented

Spatial Planning Initiative



Central Border Region
Working Together
A Spatial Planning Initiative



PROJECT OUTPUTS 2014/2015

- Promoted the RSF in Leinster House, Dublin and Parliament Buildings, Stormont.
- Held individual meetings with member Council officials and their teams to commence project ideas prioritised from the 47 objectives identified within the RSF. Over 75 Council staff attended these development meetings.
- Employed a Development Officer to focus on advancing the development of opportunities for EU funding.
- Developed an "ICBAN EU Information Portal" where relevant and up to date EU information can be sourced of relevance to regional developments.
- Updated Data Central reflecting new member Magherafelt District Council area.
- Met with Government departments responsible for Telecommunications in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- Met OFCOM (Independent regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries) regarding Telecommunications service and coverage in the Region.
- Submitted project proposals to EU "Connected Communities" call (Telecommunications) & Social Innovation (OpSi4SuSi) to the first call of the North West Europe programme, with partners from Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France, England and Scotland.
- Developing project ideas around Bio-diversity, Regional Literary Festivals Trail, Border Towns and Villages, Transnational Project (Across Irish Border Region)
- Developing a Literary Tourism Initiative – Brought together a network of event and festival organisers from across the Region to showcase events and create a literary trail.
- Presented on potential Greenway Masterplan developments across the Central Border Region to North South Ministerial Council meeting.

ROYAL TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE 2014 PLANNING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The "Regional Strategic Framework for the Central Border Region" was nominated for the prestigious Royal Town Planning Institute's 2014 Planning Excellence Awards which took place in London on 23rd June 2014. The RSF was one of six shortlisted within its category, which is quite an achievement in itself. ICBAN's Vice Chair, CEO and Development Manager attended the event and through this nomination the RSF has been promoted internationally.



Pictured at the Royal Town Planning Institute's 2014 Planning Excellence Awards

L-R: Councillor Allan Rainey MBE, Vice Chair, ICBAN; Catherine McEvoy, DRDNI and Cath Ranson, RTPi

Spatial Planning Initiative

A joint conference of the three cross-border groups (ICBAN, North West Region Cross Border Group and East Border Region) was held at the beginning of October in Buncrana, County Donegal. The theme of the conference was *'Local Authorities to the forefront of Cross-Border Collaboration and Partnership'* and was attended by Local Authority Representatives from across the border region.

The key note speeches were delivered by Minister Joe McHugh, TD, Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs and Natural Resources, and Minister Mark H Durkan, MLA, Minister for the Environment. Both Ministers shared their experiences of cross-border partnership working and highlighted the necessity to continue the good work in this area and to embrace the opportunities that will arise in the coming years.

Cross-Border Conference



Pictured at the Cross-Border Conference organised by the North West Region Cross Border Group in Buncrana, County Donegal:

Back row (L-R): Cllr Gus Hastings (NWRCBG), Cllr Derek Hussey (NWRCBG); Cllr Paul Canning (NWRCBG)

Front row (L-R): Minister Mark H Durkan, MLA; Cllr Alan McDowell (EBR); Cllr Pat Treanor (ICBAN); and Minister Joe McHugh, TD

Harnessing Creativity



To date over 440 participants from Counties Leitrim, Tyrone, Fermanagh and the wider Central Border Region have received assistance from the Harnessing Creativity Project; the largest ever creative project undertaken in the North West. Participants have availed of masterclasses in new and emerging digital technologies, mentoring and business development training.

PROJECT PARTNERS

ICBAN (Lead Partner)

Leitrim County Enterprise Board
(Lead Beneficiary) – now Leitrim
Local Enterprise Office

Fermanagh District Council – now
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Leitrim County Council

Leitrim Design House

Omagh Enterprise Company

Tyrone-Donagall Partnership

PROJECT VALUE

€799,880

PROJECT PERSPECTIVE

One of the participants is Fiona McCarthy who has created the characters Mabel and Arnt – a range of high quality clothing and homewares, based on two adventure-loving characters. Fiona took part in three strands of the Harnessing Creativity project: the Masterclass Programme, Business Development Training and the Creative Labs and Showcase. As a result of participating in the Harnessing Creativity Project, Fiona has now been accepted onto the New Frontiers Enterprise Ireland Programme 2015-16.



Fiona McCarthy, creator of 'Mabel and Arnt' and participant of the Harnessing Creativity Project

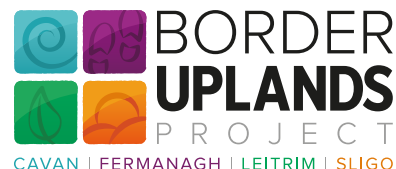
PROJECT OUTPUTS

- 165 businesses assisted
- 55 creative sector businesses assisted
- 58 broader Economy businesses participating in creative cluster groups
- 23 new concepts developed for showcasing
- 8 new products/services ideas introduced into the market

Harnessing Creativity did exactly what it said – it enabled me to collaborate with other creatives and allowed me to bring my concept and ideas to the prototyping stage. By participating in the Creative Labs and having access to the resource allocation fund, I was able to employ the services of a professional writer to create three stories for Mabel and Arnt. We continue to collaborate and I have had an offer for a book from a publishing house in Scotland.



Border Uplands Project



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The Border Uplands Project aimed to use cross-border co-operation approaches to strengthen and develop the Central Border Region as a world class geo-tourism and recreational destination. Joint marketing, education and management structures were put in place to successfully deliver the project.

PROJECT PARTNERS

ICBAN (Lead Partner)

Fermanagh District Council (Lead Beneficiary) – now Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Cavan County Council

Leitrim County Council

Sligo County Council

PROJECT VALUE

€3,183,804

PROJECT PERSPECTIVE



Tourism is a vital economic industry in Fermanagh and the Central Border Region and the completion of the Border Uplands Project has enabled us to provide a range of new sustainable tourism facilities based on our unique and spectacular countryside and landscape. In the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, a section of the long distance Cuilcagh Waymarked Way walking route has been reinstated on Cuilcagh Mountain and an inclusive walking trail has been developed in Ely Lodge Forest as well as a cycling trail in Castle Archdale Forest. We have been able to make significant investment in our recreational infrastructure which will attract more visitors to the Region while offering improved recreational opportunities for local people and help people to experience the uniqueness and beauty of our countryside.

The Border Uplands Project has been an excellent example of cross-border collaboration and joint-working. There is an abundance of geological and natural resources in the Border Uplands area and we have only scratched the surface of the true potential of the Central Border Region. We will continue to work hard in the future to ensure that this potential is achieved.

**Richard Watson, Geopark Manager,
Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark**



Before...

Work underway... Completion

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- 21,000 visitors to the Cavan Burren Park
- 26% increase in paid visitors to the cave tour
- 894 attendees at project events
- 921 children participated in the the Rock Detectives Clubs and Earth Science Labs
- 11 publications developed and disseminated to visitors, tourists, outdoor recreation enthusiasts and members of the public

Cuilcagh Mountain Park,
Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark





EU Open Days

Again this year ICBAN took the opportunity to be represented at the EU Open Days series of events being held in Brussels, from 6th-9th October 2014. The key workshop was 'Getting the most of pan-European Co-Operation Programmes 2014-2020'.

It was also an opportunity for ICBAN to maintain regular contact with our MEPs to promote issues of concern and the need for more support by the 2 governments into the future. The contribution of Cross-Border Groups to co-operation, and peace and reconciliation on the island was highlighted in seminars run by DG Regio.



Pictured at the EU Open Days Event in Brussels:

Councillor Allan Rainey MBE, ICBAN; Jim Nicholson MEP; Councillor Pat Treanor, ICBAN; Martina Anderson MEP; Megan Fearon MLA; and Matt Carthy MEP.



ICBAN's Development Officer Kevin Donaghy pictured at an "OpSi4SuSi" workshop in Germany

OpSi4SuSi Project

The Development Officer attended a partners' meeting in Altena, Germany on Tuesday 9 December on a potential 'Innovation in Social Infrastructure' project. Known as "OpSi4SuSi" this is about creating innovative solutions for affordable and sustainable social infrastructure such as facilities and public spaces, through using the emerging approach of Open Social Innovation.

EU Engagement

ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN BORDER REGIONS (AEBR) CONFERENCE, 2014



Councillor Pat Treanor pictured speaking at the AEBR Conference, 2014

The Association of the Carpathian Euroregions hosted the AEBR's General Assembly and Annual Conference in Rzeszów, Poland from 11-12 September 2014. An ICBAN delegation attended the annual conference; the theme of which was, *"Innovation and Research – Cross-Border Regional Development through Public-Private Partnership"*.

ICBAN Chair, Councillor Pat Treanor, chaired the discussion on *"Cross-border tourism and agro-industries as sources of innovation"*. Of particular interest to ICBAN was the development of 1,233 kilometres of towpath along the Rhine River. It is a cross-border project that is jointly marketed, jointly managed and has a co-ordinated approach to all infrastructure along the towpath.



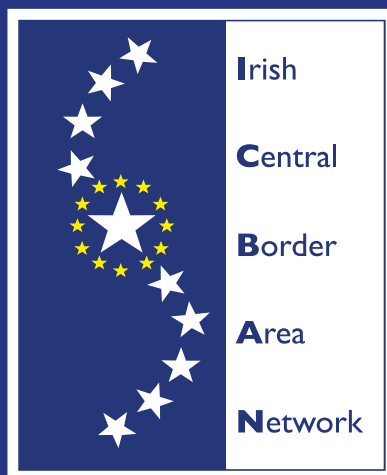
EU FUNDING PORTAL



ICBAN has developed an EU Funding News and Information Portal for the Central Border Region: www.icbaneurope.com

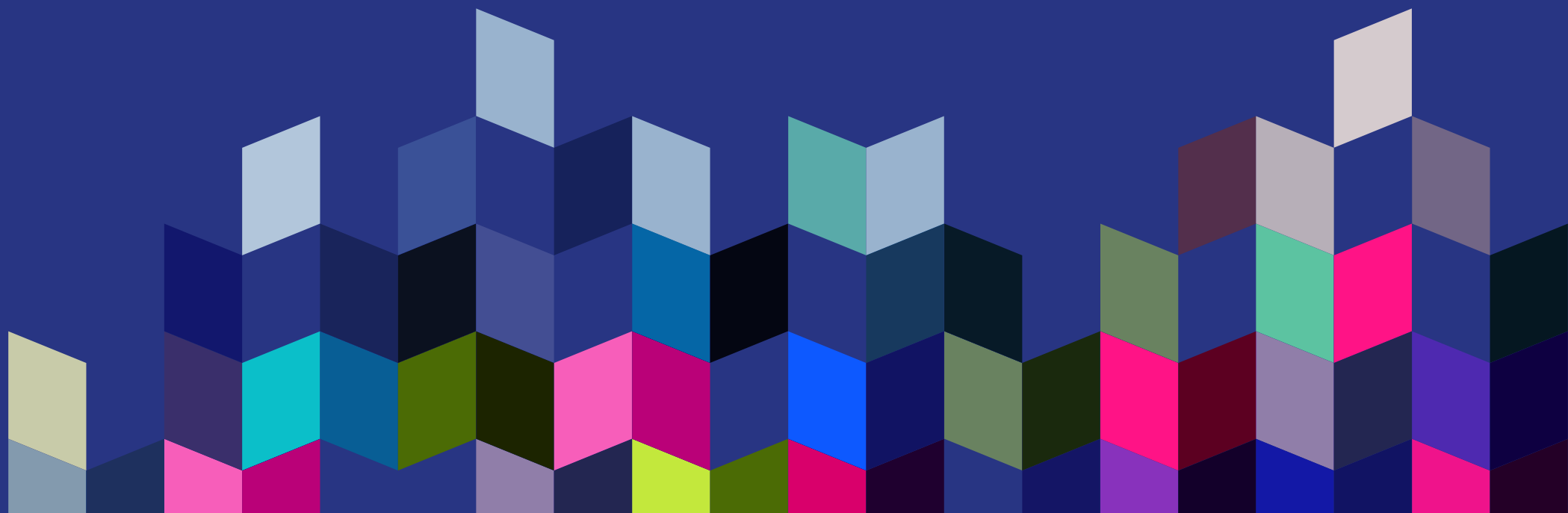
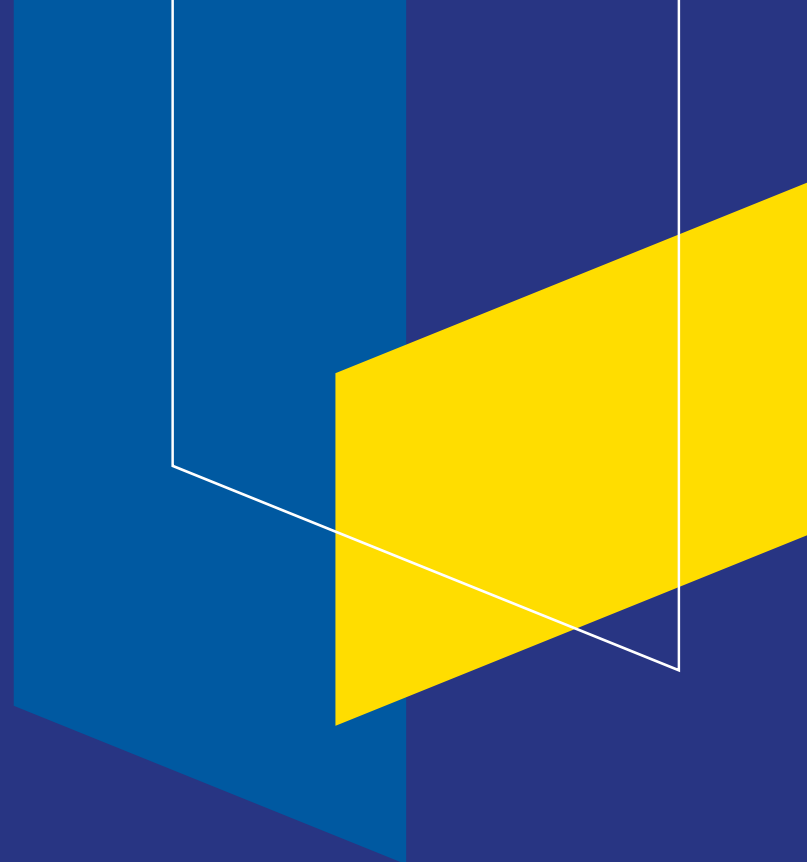
The Portal is regularly updated and provides users with access to information on various funding calls, news items and updates on issues pertinent to the Region.

As well as being a source of valuable information, the Portal is a two-way communication channel, as subscribers input to and get involved in discussions on the development of regional initiatives and projects, as well as issues and news of regional interest.



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OF CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION IN THE CENTRAL BORDER REGION



Since 1995, ICBAN has been working to promote co-operation and communication on a cross-border basis on common regional development concerns. The need for this collaboration was identified by the local authorities of the Central Border Region in the early 1990s and subsequently led to the formal establishment of the Irish Central Border Area Network in 1995.

One of the founding members is now retired Councillor Jim Cavanagh.

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I had the pleasure of being one of the founding members and a former Chairperson of ICBAN. Over the past 20 years, I have witnessed the successful delivery of projects to a value of around €50 million from the European Union's Regional Development Fund through the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.

ICBAN brought together Councillors from across the Central Border Region and we enjoyed the good relations and friendship that this afforded us. We were able to operate beyond the barriers to deliver initiatives for the benefit of all sectors across the Region.

It was a pleasure to be part of an organisation where the commitment and enthusiasm of Councillors and staff was clearly evident. For the future I hope the organisation continues to prosper, lobby and represent our Councils' interests locally, regionally, nationally and in Europe.

”

Councillor Jim Cavanagh
ICBAN Board Member 1995-2015
Chairperson, 2011 - 2012



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1 2008 - Pictured at the launch of the Western Organic Strategic Initiative

Included in the photo are Nuala Kerr, SEUPB; Mary Coughlan TD, Minister for Agriculture and Food; and Lynda Monteith, ICBAN

2 2013 - Presentation of Regional Strategic Framework at Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Included in the photo are Robin Swann, MLA; Phil Flanagan, MLA with ICBAN Board Members and Staff

3 2005 - Launch of 'Roads to Opportunity' Study

Included in the photo are MLAs Thomas Buchanan, Arlene Foster and Tommy Gallagher with ICBAN Board members, Councillors from the Region and Kate Burns, ICBAN.





4 2014 – Launch of the Regional Strategic Framework, Leinster House, Dublin

Included in the photo are ICBAN Board Members and Staff; Heather Humphreys TD; Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD; Brendan Smith TD; Joe O'Reilly TD; Mairead McGuinness MEP; and representatives of the North West Region Cross Border Group and the Centre for Cross Border Studies.

5 2013 – Official Launch of the Regional Strategic Framework in Cavan

Pictured are the First Citizens of the ICBAN Member Councils

6 2009 - INTERREG IIIA Dissemination Event

Included in the photo are ICBAN staff with Mary Coughlan TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment





7 2005 – ICBAN 10 Year Anniversary

ICBAN Board Members: Councillor Fergus McQuillan; Councillor Jim Cavanagh; Councillor Bertie Kerr; Councillor Enda Bonner and Councillor Seamus Shields (RIP)

8 2005 – Presentation of the Sail of Papenburg Cross-Border Award to ICBAN

Included in the photo are AEBR President Lambert van Nistelrooij MEP; Kate Burns, ICBAN and Jens Gabbe, AEBR Honorary Member (Germany)

9 2013 – Launch of the 'Something for Everyone' Tourism Brochure

Included in the photo are Leo Varadkar TD, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport; David Thomson, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment; Councillor Jim Cavanagh, Chair, ICBAN; Councillor Terry Ferguson, Chair Border Regional Authority; Caroline Brady, Border Regional Authority; and Shane Campbell, ICBAN

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10 2004 - Launch of ICBAN's Strategy for 2004-2008

Dr Peter Smyth, North South Ministerial Council and Lynda Monteith, ICBAN

11 2011 - Launch of the Political and Civic Collaboration Programme.

Included in the photo are: Philip Nugent, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government; Councillor Thomas O'Reilly, Fermanagh District Council; Minister Danny Kennedy MLA, Minister for Regional Development; and Councillor David Alcorn, ICBAN Board Member

12 2006 - Pictured at a meeting with DARD Minister

Councillor Winston Bennett, Councillor Pearse McAleer, Councillor Francis McDermott, Councillor Pat Treanor, Carol Follis, ICBAN; Michelle Gildernew MLA, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development; Lynda Monteith, ICBAN

13 2004 - Pictured at the launch of ICBAN's Cross-Border Strategy

Included in the photo are Councillor Fergus McQuillan, ICBAN; Brendan Smith, TD; Dr Peter Smyth, North South Ministerial Council; Jack O'Connor SEUPB and Kate Burns, ICBAN



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14 2013 – Best Practice Visit to the Mayo Great Western Greenway

Included in the photo are Elected Members and Council Officials representing all ICBAN member Councils

15 2014 – Launch of the Regional Strategic Framework in Stormont, Belfast

Councillor Robert Turner, Councillor Mealla Campbell and Mark H Durkan MLA, Minister of the Environment

16 2008 - Celebration of the Shaylyn Dance Project

Included in the photo are Lynda Monteith, ICBAN; Colin Dunne and members of the Sollus Highland Dance Group

17 2004 – Cross Border Waste Awareness Campaign

Included in the photo is Kate Burns, ICBAN



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OF CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION IN THE CENTRAL BORDER REGION

CELEBRATING
20 YEARS
1995-2015

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18 2008 -North-South Ministerial Council Networking Day

Councillor Bernice Swift and representatives from ICBAN and North-South Ministerial Council

19 2006 – Launch of the Innovation Project

Included in the photo are Garrett McGinty, ICBAN and Dr Barney Toal, NORIBIC

20 2002 – Meeting the Clintons in Enniskillen

Included in the photo is Kate Burns, ICBAN



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Statement on Governance & Structure

The Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) Ltd is a cross-border local authority-led organisation, comprising of 11 member Councils (until 31st March 2015) in the area known as the Central Border Region.

MEMBERSHIP TO 31ST MARCH 2015

Northern Ireland:

Armagh City & District Council
Cookstown District Council
Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council
Fermanagh District Council
Magherafelt District Council
Omagh District Council

Republic of Ireland:

Cavan County Council
Donegal County Council
Leitrim County Council
Monaghan County Council
Sligo County Council

Changing Membership

With the Review of Public Administration in Northern Ireland, ICBAN's membership has changed. Reform of Local Government saw the number of Councils in Northern Ireland reducing from 26 to 11 Councils. The new Councils formally took over from 1 April 2015.

The Councils of Armagh City and District, Cookstown, Dungannon and South Tyrone, Fermanagh, Magherafelt and Omagh merged into Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mid Ulster District Council. It is these new organisations who are members of ICBAN going forward.

MEMBERSHIP FROM 1ST APRIL 2015

Northern Ireland:

Armagh City Banbridge and
Craigavon Borough Council

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Mid Ulster District Council

Republic of Ireland:

Cavan County Council

Donegal County Council

Leitrim County Council

Monaghan County Council

Sligo County Council

The need for ICBAN was identified by local authorities within the Central Border Region in the early 1990's, which led to its formal establishment in 1995.

ICBAN was established to promote co-operation and communication on a cross-border basis on common regional development concerns. It has provided a forum to respond to the unique economic and social needs of the Central Border Region.

In 2001, ICBAN was constituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee without Share Capital.

2 Elected Representatives from each of the eleven member Councils served as Directors on the Management Board up to 30 March 2015.

From 1 April 2015, there is a new tiered membership system. Member Councils are categorised by population over 100k (Tier 1), over 50k (Tier 2) and under 50k (Tier 3). Representation is proportionate to their scale of population.

The Governance Framework

ICBAN's governance framework comprises the systems and processes, culture and values, by which it is directed and controlled and the activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads its members and stakeholders.

MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board provides leadership of the company within a framework of prudent and effective controls, which enables risk to be assessed and managed. The Management Board sets the company's strategic aims, ensuring that the necessary resources are in place for the company to meet its objectives and reviews performance. The Management Board sets the company's values and standards and ensures that its obligations to its stakeholders and others are understood and met.

CORPORATE PLAN: JANUARY 2015 - DECEMBER 2016

The key aims and objectives for ICBAN were set out in a new Corporate Plan for the two-year period to December 2016. ICBAN will continue to strengthen its value to Members and Stakeholders through partnership on a cross-border basis.

RISK, AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Risk, Audit and Finance Committee oversee the internal control system and risk management framework. The Committee also provides a platform for peer exchanges, enabling members from both jurisdictions to understand the responsibilities, activities and processes applicable in both jurisdictions.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

ICBAN conducts an annual review of the effectiveness of its governance framework. This is informed by the work of the Internal and External Audit Functions, as well as the Senior Management Team within ICBAN, who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment.

The results of Internal and External Audits in the past year demonstrate that the organisation has robust systems in place. ICBAN continues to incorporate evolving best practice into its operations.

FUND MANAGEMENT

ICBAN is proud of its track record in fund management and has provided a professional financial management and verification service to its Project Partners.

ICBAN is committed to making continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

ICBAN Management Board

Board Members and Staff 2014/15

Armagh City and District Council

Councillor Mealla Campbell

Councillor Robert Turner

Cavan County Council

Councillor Winston Bennett

Councillor Fergal Curtin

Cookstown District Council

Councillor Samuel Glasgow MBE

Councillor Pearse McAleer

Donegal County Council

Councillor Enda Bonner

Councillor Gary Doherty

Councillor David Alcorn (until June 2014)

Councillor Brendan Byrne
(until June 2014)

Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council

Councillor Jim Cavanagh

Councillor Robert Mulligan

Fermanagh District Council

Councillor Alex Baird

Councillor Brian McCaffrey

Leitrim County Council

Councillor Caillian Ellis

Councillor Sean McDermott

Councillor Gerry Dolan
(until June 2014)

Magherafelt District Council

Councillor Sean Bateson

Councillor Seán McPeake

Councillor Peter Bateson
(until December 2014)

Monaghan County Council

Councillor Robbie Gallagher

Councillor Pat Treanor

Councillor David Maxwell
(until June 2014)

Omagh District Council

Councillor Frankie Donnelly

Councillor Allan Rainey MBE

Sligo County Council

Councillor Sinéad Maguire

Councillor Paul Taylor

Councillor Thomas Collery
(until June 2014)

Councillor Matt Lyons
(until June 2014)

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ICBAN Staff

Shane Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

Lynda Monteith
Corporate Manager

Colin McKenna
Development Manager

Stephen Cassidy
Project Officer

Kevin Donaghy
Development Officer

Joanne Breen
Communications Officer

Marie White
PA/Senior Administrative Officer

Edel Goodwin
Finance Officer

Tracey Farry
Finance Officer







Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) Ltd

New Hope Centre

2 Erne Road

Enniskillen

County Fermanagh

BT74 6NN

Tel: +44 (0) 28 6634 0710

Fax: +44 (0) 28 6634 6845

Email: info@icban.com

Website: www.icban.com

EU Portal: www.icbaneurope.com

Twitter: [@europe_icban](https://twitter.com/europe_icban)