

# SOUTHERN & EASTERN

Regional Assembly

*Promoting Our Region*



## Annual Report & Accounts 2009



Ireland's EU Structural Funds  
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government  
and the European Union



EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

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**Cllr. Kevin Murphy**  
*Cathaoirleach*

As Cathaoirleach of the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly, I am delighted to present the Assembly's eleventh Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year 2009. The Assemblies were first established back in 1999, and have over the past number of years evolved into highly experienced public organisations essential to the management and promotion of regional development. The Assemblies are hugely successful in managing the various EU co-financed programmes, which greatly enhance regional development.

During 2009, the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly was involved in closure activities associated with the 2000-2006 Regional Operational Programme. The management of these programmes has been discharged in a very professional fashion, and I am glad to report that all of the EU Funds which were allocated to the Region were fully drawn down and appropriately spent, and this is having a lasting beneficial impact on the Region.

There was a great deal of activity during the year 2009 for the Assembly, as is highlighted in this report. One important event that occurred during my term as Chairperson was the formal launch of the policy paper on "Innovation Challenges for SME's" at the 2009 Annual Conference which was held in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath on 2nd October 2009. This conference was addressed by an extremely interesting and varied panel of speakers and proved hugely successful with an excellent attendance rate.

I wish to thank my fellow councillors on the Assembly and Committees for their co-operation over the year, and in particular my predecessor in the Chair, Cllr. Jim Holloway for his advice and assistance. I also wish to thank the Director, Stephen Blair and his staff for their help and assistance throughout the year.



**Stephen Blair**  
*Director*

It is with pleasure that I welcome the publication of the 11th Annual Report and Financial Statement for the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly. As will be seen from this report a diverse range of events and activities took place during the year.

The management of the Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013 remains one of our core functions, along with the management of the cross-border Ireland-Wales Programme 2007-2013. There is also much continued work being completed towards ensuring the efficient closure of the 2000-2006 Programme which will conclude in early 2010. A summary of progress in 2009 on these programmes is contained within this report.

During May 2009, the Gateways Development Index (GDI) Report on the development of the nine National Spatial Strategy Gateways, commissioned by both the Southern and Eastern and the BMW Regional Assemblies was presented to the members. This index is quite significant in that it will measure the extent to which the designated gateways are progressing as drivers of regional economic development. The information obtained from the index will prove particularly relevant for our elected members in their work at both local and regional level.

The assembly became actively involved in a number of publicity campaigns aimed towards promoting public awareness of the Operational Programme and the work of the Regional Assembly. Outdoor broadcasts were arranged at venues in Waterford and Kildare, where promotional material was distributed and the local radio stations interviewed assembly staff and members and also project beneficiaries. Publicity events such as these are extremely important in promoting the work of the Assembly at regional level.

2009 also saw the Assembly becoming involved in a number of new EU Projects, such as, the URBACT Open Cities project which enables participant cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe and an Atlantic Area project on Knowledge Intensive Services (AtlantKIS).

During 2009, the Regional Assembly took over the Chair and administration of the Atlantic Gateways Steering Group until June 2010. This group has been working on issues of spatial planning in, around and between the four Gateway Cities – Galway, Cork, Limerick and Waterford. Four individual Atlantic Gateway Corridor reports are being finalised which set out the development frameworks for the corridors between the Gateways and these will be published in 2010.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff for their continued commitment and dedication over the year. I would also like to thank the Cathaoirleach and all the Members of the Assembly for their active participation and interest in the work of the Assembly.

## Background

The regionalisation arrangements negotiated by Ireland in the context of the Agenda 2000 Agreement resulted in the designation of two regions in Ireland for Structural Funds Purposes:

- The Southern and Eastern Region (S&E Region) and
- The Border, Midland and Western Region (BMW Region)

Following this designation, two new Regional Assemblies were established and came into effect on the 21st July 1999 under the Local Government Act, 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment) Order, 1999. The Assemblies comprise of nominated elected representatives of the regional authorities within their Region.

The principal functions of the Regional Assemblies are:

- To promote the co-ordination of public services in the Southern and Eastern Region
- To manage the Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013
- Managing Authority of the Ireland-Wales Territorial Co-operation Programme 2007-2013
- Monitor and make proposals in relation to the general impact of their regions of all E.U. Programmes of assistance under the Community Support Framework
- Make public bodies aware of the regional implications of their policies, plans and activities

The headquarters of the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly is in Waterford City.



## Meetings and Membership of the Assembly

The Regional Assembly normally meets on the second Friday of every second month throughout the year at the Headquarters of the Assembly. There were five Assembly meetings held during the year. The average attendances for the meetings was 65%

Members of the Assembly are nominated by the constituent Local Authorities in the Region in proportion to the size of the Local Authority's population. The breakdown is as follows:

|                               |   |                        |   |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| Carlow Co Co.                 | 1 | Limerick City Co.      | 1 |
| Clare Co Co.                  | 2 | Limerick Co Co.        | 2 |
| Cork City Co.                 | 2 | Meath Co Co.           | 2 |
| Cork Co Co.                   | 4 | North Tipperary Co Co. | 1 |
| Dublin City Co.               | 7 | South Dublin Co Co.    | 3 |
| Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co Co. | 2 | South Tipperary Co Co. | 1 |
| Fingal Co Co.                 | 2 | Waterford City Co.     | 1 |
| Kerry Co Co.                  | 2 | Waterford Co Co.       | 1 |
| Kildare Co Co.                | 2 | Wexford Co Co.         | 2 |
| Kilkenny Co Co.               | 1 | Wicklow Co Co.         | 2 |

To be nominated, a person must be both a member of a Local Authority and Regional Authority. In all, there are forty-one members of the Regional Assembly. The political breakdown of the Assembly is as follows:

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Fine Gael       | 19 |
| Labour          | 14 |
| Fianna Fáil     | 3  |
| Sinn Féin       | 2  |
| The Green Party | 1  |
| Independent     | 2  |

The Gender breakdown of the elected members is as follows:

|        | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Female | 5    | 5    | 7    | 7    | 7    | 7    | 8    | 10   | 10   | 11   | 4    |
| Male   | 36   | 36   | 34   | 34   | 34   | 34   | 33   | 31   | 31   | 30   | 37   |
| Total  | 41   | 41   | 41   | 41   | 41   | 41   | 41   | 41   | 41   | 41   | 41   |

## Membership of the Assembly 2009 (to 4th June 2009)

|  |           |   |
|--|-----------|---|
| Cllr Holloway<br>(Cathaoirleach 2008-2009) | Jim       | Farganstown, Boyne Road, Navan, Co Meath                |
| Cllr Ardagh                                | Máire     | 8 The Court, Cypress Downs, Templeogue, Dublin 6W       |
| Cllr Ahern                                 | Maurice   | 281 Sea Park, Coast Road, Malahide, Co. Dublin          |
| Cllr Allen                                 | Lorcan    | Raheenagurren, Gorey, Co. Wexford                       |
| Cllr Bermingham                            | Brian     | 12 Woodbrook Grove, Bishopstown, Cork                   |
| Cllr Breathnach                            | Tomás     | Forge Road, Narabane, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny            |
| Cllr Brophy                                | Colm      | 79 Slieve Rua Drive Stillorgan, Co. Dublin              |
| Cllr Burke                                 | Christy   | 11 Cherrymount Crescent, Malahide Road, Dublin 3        |
| Cllr Byrne                                 | Clare     | 30 Bulfin Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8                     |
| Cllr Byrne                                 | Maria     | "Mannixville", O'Connell Avenue, Limerick               |
| Cllr Cahill                                | Michael   | Rossbeigh, Glenbeigh, Co. Kerry                         |
| Cllr Carter                                | Anne      | 8 Elton Drive, Ard-na-Greine, Malahide Road, Dublin 13. |
| Cllr Considine                             | Peter     | Dromadrehid, Ennis, Co. Clare                           |
| Cllr Creighton                             | Eddie     | 9 St. Joseph's Terrace, Hospital, Co. Limerick          |
| Cllr Devitt                                | Anne      | Lispopple, Swords, Co. Dublin                           |
| Cllr Enright                               | Leonard   | Ballyanrahan, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick                |
| Cllr Fleming                               | Dan       | Dawstown, Blarney, Co. Cork                             |
| Cllr Freehill                              | Mary      | 77 Grove Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6.                     |
| Cllr Geoghegan                             | Damien    | 64 Silversprings, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford              |
| Cllr Hand                                  | Pat       | 25 Chestnut Grove, Ballinteer, Dublin 16                |
| Cllr Hendy                                 | Rainsford | Woodlawn, Timolin, Ballitore, Co. Kildare               |
| Cllr Howlin                                | Ted       | Rocklands, Wexford                                      |
| Cllr Kavanagh                              | Conal     | 4 The Courtyard, Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow   |
| Cllr Kelly                                 | Paul      | "Rye Cottage", 99 Main Street, Leixlip, Co. Kildare     |
| Cllr Kinsella                              | Thomas    | Kilcumney, Goresbridge, Co. Kilkenny                    |
| Cllr Keane                                 | Cait      | 26 Rushbrook Court, Templeogue, Dublin 6W               |
| Cllr Lacey                                 | Dermot    | 66 Beechill Drive, Donnybrook, Dublin 4                 |
| Cllr Lafferty                              | Martin    | Ballyinsheen, Galway Road, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare      |
| Cllr Lombard                               | Tim       | Granig, Minane Bridge, Co Cork                          |
| Cllr Maguire                               | Michael   | Lattin, Tipperary, Co. Tipperary                        |
| Cllr Maher                                 | Bronwen   | No.1 The Bamblings, Killester, Dublin 5                 |
| Cllr McCarthy                              | Lettie    | 23 Kilgobbin Heights, Stepside, Co. Dublin              |
| Cllr Mulvihill                             | John      | Tay Road, Cobh, Co. Cork                                |
| Cllr Murphy                                | Kevin     | "Wints Mills", Killany, Kinsale, Co. Cork               |
| Cllr Murray                                | Seamus    | Cullentra, Longwood, Co. Meath                          |
| Cllr O'Donoghue                            | Paul      | Castlequin, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry                      |
| Cllr O'Driscoll                            | Tom       | 95 Fr. Dominic Road, Ballyphehane, Cork                 |
| Cllr O'Halloran                            | Mary      | 3 Avondale Drive, Waterford                             |
| Cllr Richardson                            | Margaret  | 51 Edgewood Lawn, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15             |
| Cllr Ryan                                  | Mattie    | Coolecarra, Kilcommon, Thurles, Co. Tipperary           |
| Cllr Ryan                                  | John      | "Huntingdon", 13 Ardmore Lawn, Bray, Co. Wicklow        |

## Membership of the Assembly 2009 (to 5th June 2009)

|  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| Cllr Murphy<br>(Cathaoirleach 2009-2010) | Kevin    | Wints Mills, Killany, Kinsale, Co Cork                      |
| Cllr Bourke                              | Paddy    | 13 Montrose Grove, Artane, Dublin 5                         |
| Cllr Breathnach                          | Tomas    | Forge Road, Narabane, Kilmacow, Co Kilkenny                 |
| Cllr Brennan                             | Joe      | Millers Rest, Grangemockler, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary |
| Cllr Burke                               | Christy  | 11 Cherrymount Crescent, Malahide Road, Dublin 3            |
| Cllr Byrne                               | Clare    | 30 Bulfin Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8                         |
| Cllr Byrne                               | Ciaran   | 41 South Strand, Skerries, Co. Dublin                       |
| Cllr Crowe                               | Sean     | 16 Faiche an Raithin, Tamhlacht, Baile Ata Cliath 24        |
| Cllr Culhane                             | Aidan    | 172 Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin 16                        |
| Cllr Devitt                              | Anne     | Lispopple, Swords, Co.Dublin                                |
| Cllr Ellis                               | Dessie   | 19 Dunsink Road, Finglas West, Dublin 11                    |
| Cllr Fegan                               | Jimmy    | Clonefane, Trim, Co. Meath                                  |
| Cllr Fleming                             | Dan      | Dawstown, Balrney, Co Cork                                  |
| Cllr Freehill                            | Mary     | 77 Grove Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6                          |
| Cllr Geoghegan                           | Damien   | 64 Silversprings, Dungarvan, Co Waterford                   |
| Cllr Griffin                             | Senan    | Ballygoran, Maynooth, Co. Kildare                           |
| Cllr Holloway                            | James    | Fargansown, Boyne Road, Navan, Co. Meath                    |
| Cllr Howlin                              | Ted      | Rocklands, Wexford  |
| Cllr Humphreys                           | Kevin    | 14 O'Connell Gardens, Bath Avenue, Sandymount, Dublin 4     |
| Cllr Kavanagh                            | Paddy    | Drumgoold Lower, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford                    |
| Cllr Kavanagh                            | Conal    | 12 Springfield, Wicklow Town                                |
| Cllr Kearns                              | Pamela   | 203 Orwell Park Heights, Templeogue, Dublin 6W              |
| Cllr Keary                               | Stephen  | Clogh, Croagh, Co. Limerick                                 |
| Cllr Kelly                               | P.J.     | Lissycasey, Co. Clare                                       |
| Cllr Kinsella                            | Thomas   | Kilcumney, Goresbridge, Co Kilkenny                         |
| Cllr Lacey                               | Dermot   | 66 Beechill Drive, Donnybrook, Dublin 4                     |
| Cllr Lawlor                              | Brian    | 5 Killakee Gardens, Firhouse, Dublin 4                      |
| Cllr Lombard                             | Tim      | Granig, Minane Bridge, Co. Cork                             |
| Cllr Lowry                               | Michéal  | Glenreigh, Holycross, Thurles, Co. Tipperary                |
| Cllr McCarthy                            | Denis    | 4 Siul na Habhann, Corbally, Limberick                      |
| Cllr McGinley                            | John     | 50 Greenfield Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare                   |
| Cllr Meaney                              | Brian    | Ballymacooda, Darragh, Ennis, Co. Clare                     |
| Cllr Mulvihill                           | John     | Tay Road, Cobh, Co Cork                                     |
| Cllr Murphy                              | Dara     | 1, Herbert Park, Gardiners Hill, Cork                       |
| Cllr O'Connell                           | Bobby    | 15 Main Street, Castleisland, Kerry                         |
| Cllr O'Dowd                              | Virginia | St Conlon's Road, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary                     |
| Cllr O'Flynn                             | Denis    | 1 Dunvale, Rise, Frankfield, Douglas, Cork                  |
| Cllr Purtill                             | Liam     | Main Street, Ballylongford, Co. Kerry                       |
| Cllr Ryan                                | John     | 'Huntingdon', 13 Ardmore Lawn, Bray, Co Wicklow             |
| Cllr Saul                                | Barry    | 3 Mather Road North, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin              |
| Cllr Walsh                               | Leo      | Loer Raheen, Ballyneety, Co. Limerick                       |
| Cllr Walsh                               | Jack     | 33 Grange Heights, Waterford                                |

RESIGNATIONS: During the year Cllr Virginia O'Dowd resigned from the Assembly

**Members & Staff of the Regional Assembly At the Annual Meeting  
on 18th September 2009**



**Staff of the Regional Assembly**



## Meetings and Membership of the Sub-Committees

The establishment of the sub-committees arises from the requirement to provide a forum where pertinent issues can be discussed in detail and allow for greater input from elected members, regional authority representatives and public bodies in the S&E region. The Committees are chaired by a Member of the Assembly who is required to brief the Assembly on the work of the Committee.

The main functions of the sub-committee are:

- To review the implementation of the Operational Programme and put forward recommendations arising from this review.
- To review the implementation of the various sub-programmes of the S&E Regional Operational Programme and put forward recommendations arising from this review.
- To be briefed on the outcomes of the Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme by the Assembly Member and Observer who represent the S&E Region on the Monitoring Committee
- To advise and inform the S&E Regional Assembly in relation to broad (sub-programme) issues.
- To request representatives of relevant Government Departments and Agencies to attend and address meetings of the sub-committee.

The Sub-Committees of the Regional Assembly normally meet on the second Friday of every second month throughout the year at the Headquarters of the Assembly. There were four meetings of each sub-committee held during 2009. The average attendance rate at sub-committee meetings was 51%.

### Policy Papers 2009:

The Enterprise and Productive Investment Sub-Committee produced a policy paper entitled **“Innovation Challenges for SME’s”**. This policy paper produced a number of key recommendations on stimulating innovation on a regional basis. This policy paper was passed by the members at the Assembly meeting in October 2008 and was presented by sub-committee representatives to Conor Lenihan, T.D., Minister for Science, Technology, Innovation & Natural Resources, at the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment on 29th October 2009.

The policy paper was also used as the central theme to our Annual Conference held in October 2009 in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath. The policy paper was presented by Cllr. John Ryan, Cathaoirleach of the Enterprise & Productive Investment Sub-Committee, stimulating much discussion among those in attendance.

## The Membership of the four sub-committees of the Assembly is as follows:

### Enterprise and Productive Investment

|                |          |  |                                 |
|----------------|----------|--|---------------------------------|
| Byrne          | Ciaran   | Cllr.                                  | Regional Assembly               |
| Bourke         | Paddy    | Cllr.                                  | Regional Assembly               |
| Holloway       | James    | Cllr.                                  | Regional Assembly               |
| Humphries      | Kevin    | Cllr.                                  | Regional Assembly               |
| Kearns         | Pamela   | Cllr.                                  | Regional Assembly               |
| Meaney         | Brian    | Cllr.                                  | Regional Assembly               |
| Ryan           | John     | Cllr. – Chair                          | Regional Assembly               |
| Saul           | Barry    | Cllr.                                  | Regional Assembly               |
| Buckley        | Fiona    |  | South West Tourism Authority    |
| Dowling        | Tom      | Designated Manager                     | Mid-East Regional Authority     |
| Gavin          | Joe      | D/Manager                              | South West Regional Authority   |
| Harrington     | Noel     | Cllr.                                  | Cathaoirleach SWRA              |
| Jones          | George   | Cllr.                                  | Cathaoirleach MERA              |
| Kearney        | William  |  | Bord Gais                       |
| McEvoy         | Mary     | Sen. Regional<br>Development Executive | Enterprise Ireland              |
| Murphy         | Gerry    | Regional Director                      | South Coillte                   |
| Potter         | Patricia | Director                               | Dublin Regional Authority       |
| Representative |          | Faillte Ireland                        |                                 |
| Representative |          | Tourism                                |                                 |
| Representative |          | Bord Gais                              |                                 |
| Crotty         | Sharon   | Programme Executive                    | Regional Assembly - Secretariat |

### Employment and Social Inclusion

|                |         |                     |                                 |
|----------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Burke          | Christy | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Byrne          | Clare   | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Crowe          | Sean    | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Ellis          | Dessie  | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Fegan          | Jimmy   | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Howlin         | Ted     | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Kavanagh       | Conal   | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Lawlor         | Brian   | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| O'Flynn        | Denis   | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Walsh          | Jack    | Cllr. – Chair       | Regional Assembly               |
| Byrne          | John    | Director            | Mid-East Regional Authority     |
| Conway         | Con     | Manager             | An Post                         |
| Coughlan       | Jim     | Regional Director   | FAS                             |
| Mackey         | Tom     | Designated Manager  | Mid/East-Regional Authority     |
| Representative |         |                     | HSE                             |
| Representative |         |                     | An Post                         |
| Maurus         | Sonja   | Programme Executive | Regional Assembly - Secretariat |

## Planning and Infrastructure

|            |          |                     |                                  |
|------------|----------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Culhane    | Aidan    | Cllr. – Chair       | Regional Assembly                |
| Devitt     | Anne     | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| Freehill   | Mary     | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| Griffin    | Senan    | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| Keary      | Stephan  | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| Kelly      | P. J.    | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| Lacey      | Dermot   | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| Lombard    | Tim      | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| Lowry      | Michèal  | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| McGinley   | John     | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| Mulvihill  | John     | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| Murphy     | Dara     | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| O’Connell  | Bobby    | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| Purtill    | Liam     | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly                |
| Byrne      | Tom      | Director            | South Eastern Regional Authority |
| Conneally  | Liam     | Director            | Mid-West Regional Authority      |
| Conroy     | Martin   | Project             | Leader E.S.B.                    |
| Egan       | Michael  | Corporate Affairs   | National Roads Authority         |
| Finn       | Tom      | Manager             | CIE                              |
| Horan      | Joe      | D/Manager           | Dublin Regional Authority        |
| Keating    | Brendan  | CEO                 | Port of Cork                     |
| Loughnane  | Olivia   | R,D&C Director      | Shannon Development              |
| Mcllvenny  | Stan     | CEO                 | Port of Waterford                |
| McLoughlin | Seamus   | Head of Operations  | Dublin Port Co                   |
| Walsh      | Michael  | City Manager        | Waterford City Council           |
| Brennan    | Derville | Programme Executive | Regional Assembly - Secretariat  |

## Agriculture and Rural Development

|                |         |                     |                                 |
|----------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Breathnach     | Tomas   | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Brennan        | Joe     | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Fleming        | Dan     | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Geoghegan      | Damien  | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Kavanagh       | Paddy   | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Kinsella       | Thomas  | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Murphy         | Kevin   | Cllr. – Chair       | Regional Assembly               |
| Walsh          | Leo     | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| McCarthy       | Denis   | Cllr.               | Regional Assembly               |
| Crockett       | Joe     | Designed Manager    | South-West Regional Authority   |
| McAleer        | John    | Director            | South-West Regional Authority   |
| Moloney        | John    | Area Manager        | Teagasc                         |
| O’Hanlon       | Kieren  | Director            | Shannon Est. Ports              |
| Representative |         |                     | Central Fisheries Board         |
| Representative |         |                     | Shannon Foynes Port Company     |
| Dunphy         | Vincent | Programme Executive | Regional Assembly - Secretariat |

## Meetings and Membership of the Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme Monitoring Committee 2000-2006 and 2007-2013

Each of the Operational Programmes contained in the National Development Plan are required to have a Monitoring Committee. The overall role of the Monitoring committee is to satisfy itself as to the effectiveness and quality of the implementation of all expenditure under the Regional Operational Programme. It is open to the Monitoring Committee to consider the progress and impact of both co-financed and non co-financed expenditure and to make recommendations in this regard to the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly, the relevant Implementing Departments and the Department of Finance.

The 2007-2013 Programme Monitoring Committee meet on an annual basis to review the previous years' progress. The third meeting of the Committee was held on the 18th May 2009.

The Regional Assembly provides the Chair and Secretariat for the Monitoring Committees of the Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013. Membership of the Monitoring Committee for the Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programmes were as follows:

### Membership of the Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013 Monitoring Committee

| Managing Authority  | Number of positions |
|---|---------------------|
| Mr Stephen Blair, Director  | Chair               |
| Cathaoirleach Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly                          | 1                   |
| Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly  | 5                   |
| <b><u>Implementing Departments / Bodies</u></b>                               |                     |
| Department of Finance   | 1                   |
| Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment                                | 2                   |
| Department of Education and Science   | 1                   |
| Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources                      | 1                   |
| Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government                    | 1                   |
| Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism   | 1                   |
| Department of Transport   | 1                   |
| Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs                            | 1                   |
| <b><u>Regional Interests</u></b>  |                     |
| Cathaoirleach, South-West Regional Authority                                  | 1                   |
| Cathaoirleach, Mid-West Regional Authority                                    | 1                   |
| Cathaoirleach, Dublin Regional Authority                                      | 1                   |
| Cathaoirleach, South-East Regional Authority                                  | 1                   |
| Cathaoirleach, Mid-East Regional Authority                                    | 1                   |
| <b><u>Social Partners</u></b>   |                     |
| IBEC  | 1                   |
| ICTU  | 1                   |
| SIPTU   | 1                   |
| Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association                                    | 1                   |
| Irish Co-operative Organisation Society                                       | 1                   |
| Macra na Feirme   | 1                   |
| Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association                                     | 1                   |
| Irish Farmers Association   | 1                   |
| <b><u>Horizontal Interests</u></b>  |                     |
| Environmental Policy : Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government | 1                   |
| Equality and Gender Equality: Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform    | 1                   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Office of Social Inclusion                        | 1 |
| <b>North South Co-Operation</b>                   |   |
| Special EU Programmes Body                        | 1 |
| <b>Observers/Advisors</b>                         |   |
| D.G. Regio, European Commission                   | 3 |
| Director Mid-East Regional Authority              | 1 |
| Director South-West Regional Authority            | 1 |
| Director Mid-West Regional Authority              | 1 |
| Director South-West Regional Authority            | 1 |
| Director Dublin Regional Authority                | 1 |
| ERDF Certifying Authority : Department of Finance | 1 |
| Enterprise Ireland                                | 1 |
| Higher Education Authority                        | 1 |
| Sustainable Energy Ireland                        | 1 |
| Equality Authority                                | 1 |
| Combat Poverty Agency                             | 1 |
| Comhar  | 1 |
| Environmental Protection Agency                   | 1 |

## Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly Representation on Committees

### **Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme Monitoring Committee**

Cathaoirleach (ex-officio); Cllr. M. Freehill; Cllr. T. Lombard; Cllr. J. Mulvihill; Cllr. B. O'Connell

### **NDP Monitoring Committee**

Cathaoirleach (ex-officio)

### **NRSA Monitoring Committee**

Cathaoirleach (ex-officio)

### **Human Capital Investment Programme Monitoring Committee**

Cllr. Conal Kavanagh

### **Rural Development Programme Monitoring Committee**

Cllr. Joe Brennan

### **Fisheries Programme Monitoring Committee**

Cllr. Damien Geoghegan

### **Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances**

Cathaoirleach

### **Operational Committee**

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Leo Walsh

### **Interreg IVA Ireland-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee**

Mr. Stephen Blair, Director (Joint Chair), Cllr. Aidan Culhane, Cllr. P. Kavanagh, Cllr. S. Griffin

### **Interreg IVA Ireland-Wales Programme Steering Committee**

Mr David Kelly, Assistant Director (Joint Chair)

### **Interreg IVB North-West Europe Programme Monitoring & Steering Committees**

Mr. David Kelly, Assistant Director

### **Interreg IVC West Zone Programme Monitoring & Steering Committees**

Mr Stephen Blair, Director

# Progress Report on the Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013

## Overview of Implementation

The main focus of the Managing Authority in 2009 was on the continued implementation of the S&E Regional Operational Programme. Most of the co-funded themes are now operational. Whilst only 3 years into the implementation of the programme many of the final targets are well on the way to being realised. The co-funded Urban regeneration sub-theme has not commenced to-date. However, in consultation with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Certifying Authority (Dept of Finance) the Managing Authority has initiated an ERDF co-funded Gateway Grant Scheme to ensure activity under this priority. It should also be noted that there has been very little activity in some of the exchequer only funded schemes due to the current economic crisis and resultant impact on the public finances.

In total, **€310.179m** of expenditure to date has been reported to the Monitoring Committee by the Intermediate Bodies responsible for the delivery of the themes.

## Priority 1: Innovation and the Knowledge Economy Priority

### Introduction

The overall objective of this Priority is to develop further, in accordance with the Lisbon Agenda objectives, the knowledge, R&D, innovation and entrepreneurial base of the Region's economy and to support collaboration and technology transfer between research institutions and the business sector in order to boost the Region's growth and competitiveness. Cumulative public eligible expenditure to end December 2009 is reported as €267.63 million.

This Priority is divided into three separate but related Themes as follows:

1. Development of the Region's RTDI capacity
2. Entrepreneurship in MicroEnterprise
3. Experimental Innovative Actions

The choice of Themes reflects the importance of ensuring the continued development of the Region's research and development and innovation capacity as key contributors to the achievement of innovation and knowledge economy objectives and of enhancing the entrepreneurial skills of small firms.

Overall, Priority 1 (Innovation and the Knowledge Economy) has reached 96.62% expenditure of the amount budgeted for in the financial tables for the period 2007-2013. Themes 1 (Development of the Region's RTDI Capacity) and 2 are at varying states of progress compared to their annual forecasted expenditure in the Financial Tables. However, Theme 3 has yet to commence, as exchequer funding has not to date been provided.

### Theme 1: Development of Regions RTDI Capacity

Theme 1 consists of four sub-themes:

#### **Sub-Theme 1: Applied Research Enhancement (ARE)**

Up to December '09, funding has been awarded to nine Applied Research Centres and a joint Centre with two locations in the S&E Region. Four of these nine centres were funded under the Productive Sector Operational Programme '00-'06. In '08, Enterprise Ireland has restructured the Applied Research Enhancement Programme. The programme was expanded into three phases: PIONEER, NEW CENTRE START and ARE+. The Pioneer and New Centre Start phases operation with open calls, whereas the ARE+ phase is only open to existing ARE Centres. In the 2009 PIONEER Programme prioritisation was given to colleges with no ARE activity provided that they meet the other criteria in

terms of technology and commercial justification. Although projects were approved in '07 and '08 under this theme, no incurred expenditure has been reported because Enterprise Ireland had not received expenditure claims from the individual institutes by the end of '09. The first claim for ERDF co-funding is expected to be submitted to the Managing Authority in 2010. No additional PIONEER, ARE or ARE+ Centres were approved in the South and East in 2009.

### ***Sub-Theme 2: Commercialisation Fund***

The objective of the programme is to foster a dynamic and commercially aware research community and to create an environment that promotes entrepreneurship. In so doing an accessible route to commercialisation is established for the transfer of knowledge from the research base into industry. As part of its commitment to facilitating the commercialisation of research, EI provides a range of supports under the Commercialisation Fund. These include a Proof of Concept Programme, a Technology Development Programme and Commercialisation Plus funding.

Under the '07-'13 Operational Programme, up to the end of '09, three hundred and twenty two Commercialisation Fund proposals were approved comprising of eighty nine Technology Development projects, Two hundred and ten Proof of Concept projects and twenty three Commercialisation plus projects. This includes sixty nine projects in 2009 made up of sixteen Technology Development projects, forty five Proof of Concept projects and eight Commercialisation plus projects. Funding of €53m was approved to Commercialisation Fund projects from 2007 to 2009 but the first B1s capturing eligible expenditure will not be submitted by the Public Beneficiary Bodies until April 2010. Therefore, the first claim for ERDF co-funding is expected to be submitted to the Managing Authority in 2010.

### ***Sub-Theme 3: Incubation Centre Development***

This Intervention is concerned with the provision of supports and business space within the environment of a third level institution that will advance the development of emerging high potential start-up companies. The measure provides for the development of the infrastructure of the Institutes of Technology and the Universities by the provision of Incubation Centres. These Centres facilitate the commercialisation of research and development projects carried out by the incubating companies. The colleges are also encouraged to provide dedicated mentoring and support services to incubator facilities. Nine centres are open for business and are operating very successfully as demonstrated in the performance indicators. These are: Blanchardstown, Carlow, Cork, Dun Laoghaire, Limerick, National College of Ireland, Tallaght, Tralee and Waterford. Up to December 31st 2009, there were one hundred and twenty nine companies incubating in nine Centres in Blanchardstown, Carlow, Cork, Dublin NCI, Dun Laoghaire, Limerick, Tallaght, Tralee and Waterford. Four hundred and forty seven personnel were employed of which seventy three are female. There are sixteen female promoters across the nine Centres. Two additional facilities in the Cork Institute of Technology and the University of Limerick were approved by the Enterprise Ireland Board in April and September 2009 and are currently under construction. The first claim for ERDF co-funding is expected to be submitted to the Managing Authority in 2010.

### ***Sub-Theme 4: Building the Research Capacity & Capability within Higher Education Institutions***

Approval for Cycle 4 (2007-2010) the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions was given in August 2007 and drawdown of funds by institution began in 2008. Funding is spread over twelve institutions in the S&E Region. Of a total exchequer capital allocation of c. €109million, some €100 million was approved for the S&E Region. €223.96 million in eligible public expenditure was reported up to end December 2009 to the Monitoring Committee, however, the first claim for ERDF co-funding is expected to be submitted to the Managing Authority in 2010.

## **Theme 2: Entrepreneurship in MicroEnterprise**

The operational period for the Micro-Enterprise sub-theme commenced with effect from 1st January 07. After three years of being operational, the theme is well under way and the performance indicator outturn to 31st December 09 shows that individual final targets have been reached between 52% and 83%.

€43.66 million in eligible public expenditure was reported up to end December 2009. Compared to the adopted financial plan for Priority 1, the expenditure reported by this theme is 18% of the total funds allocated to the Priority.

## **Theme 3: Experimental Innovation Actions**

Theme 3 has yet to commence, as exchequer funding has not been provided to date.

## **Priority 2: Environment and Accessibility**

### **Introduction**

Funding is provided under the priority to stimulate energy efficiency and renewable energy production, the development of efficient energy management systems. The Renewable Energy Theme is designed to assist Ireland in devising and implementing the most efficient means to reduce its reliance on imported fossil fuels. A key objective of the priority is to increase broadband take-up throughout the region in order to contribute to the sustainable development of the Region. A further aim of this priority is to contribute to the sustainable development of the rural areas of the region by protecting surface and groundwater from pollution.

The priority objectives will be pursued under three separate Themes as follows:

- Environment and Risk Prevention
- Renewable Energy
- ICT Accessibility

During 2009, sub-themes in the Renewable Energy and the ICT Accessibility Themes reported expenditure. The National Broadband Scheme (NBS) was launched in January 2009; half of the NBS coverage area was enabled by the end of 2009. Approximately 47% of electoral districts are to be covered in the S&E Region. In relation to the Environment and Risk Prevention Theme which covers water source protection and pilot village waste-water initiatives, the roll out will commence once the two pilot projects have been completed and assessed.

The cumulative Priority level expenditure to end December 2009 is reported as €39.033m which represents 18.15% of Priority level expenditure.

## **Theme 1: Environment & Risk Prevention**

There was no expenditure reported under this Theme in 2009. The Department, in partnership with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes has implemented a national pilot source protection scheme with the objective of putting in place a national strategy for the protection of surface and ground water sources from agricultural pollution, commercial/industrial and residential sources. The pilot programme is being co-ordinated through the Science Dept, Dundalk Institute of Technology. The Wastewater Treatment Pilot Projects advanced by the Department, the National Rural Water Monitoring Committee and the local authorities was completed in 2007. The objective of the project is to assess new cost effective ways of providing a wastewater collection and treatment systems for small rural villages and to test a range of innovative technologies for collecting and treating domestic wastewater and include conventional and membrane based package treatment plants as well as vacuum sewers as opposed to traditional gravity and pumped systems. It is expected that liaison with local authorities on the identification and selection of schemes for inclusion in this intervention will commence in 2010 for both of these sub-themes.

## **Theme 2: Renewable Energy**

Cumulative Eligible Expenditure reported for the Renewable Energy Theme is €14.575m. Implementation has commenced on the Renewable Energy, Research & Development and Deployment Programme, the CHP & ReHeat (Bioheat) Programme & the Energy for Business Programme. The Ocean Energy Development Unit (OEDU) has been established to implement the Government's policy decision to accelerate the development of Ocean Energy (Wave and Tidal) in Ireland. It was established to advance the deployment of ocean energy technologies in Ireland by increasing the capacity for research and development both with academic institutions and commercial entities developing devices in Ireland. The expanding remit of SEI has enabled them to shape the development and delivery of a number of core initiatives, additional to the ones foreseen at the commencement of the National Strategic Reference Framework as is instanced with the inclusion of the Ocean Energy Development strand.

## **Theme 3: ICT Accessibility**

Cumulative expenditure for the ICT Accessibility Theme is €20.101m. Implementation has commenced on the National Broadband Scheme. Following the conclusion of a technology neutral procurement process, the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources on 23rd December 2008 entered into a contract with Hutchison 3G Ireland Ltd (trading as "3") for the implementation of the NBS. The National Broadband Scheme (NBS) was launched in January 2009; half of the NBS coverage area was enabled by the end of 2009. The NBS will be rolled out on an electoral division basis and will address electoral divisions (1,028) that are deemed to be without adequate broadband services. 47% of the EDs to be covered under the NBS are located within the S&E Region. Almost half of the entire NBS coverage area was enabled by end 2009 and all residential and business premises within the NBS Coverage Area will have broadband connectivity by end September 2010.

## **Priority 3: Sustainable Urban Development Priority**

This Priority seeks to enhance the attractiveness of the designated Gateways and Hubs in the Region as places to live in, to work in and to invest in. It is intended to complement Priorities 1 & 2 as well as any other investment strategies which are supporting the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy. A central aim is to support and complement efforts to ensure that the cities and towns maximise their potential. In particular this Priority will complement the substantial investment which is planned under the new National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 in support the objectives of the NSS for urban areas, and in particular the Gateways Innovation Fund.

It is intended that there will be three Themes under this Priority, one focused on the four designated Gateways, one on the designated six Hubs, and a third complementary Theme dealing with inter-Gateway collaboration. For each of the Gateway and Hubs Themes there is planned to be interventions covering a number of strands including urban regeneration, public transport and sports and cultural facilities.

During 2009, the Managing Authority introduced a new sub theme, the ERDF Gateway Grant Scheme. Under this theme, grant assistance was made available for the four NSS Gateways in the Southern & Eastern Region (Dublin, Cork, Limerick/Shannon and Waterford) for projects which will improve the Gateways economically, environmentally, socially, and/or culturally and which fell within the scope of Article 8 of Commission Regulation 1080/2006. A total of €11 million was available for allocation as grant assistance at a maximum grant rate of 50%. The matching 50% must come from the Local Authority's own resources, which may not entail borrowing. Works must be completed by 31st December 2010.

A call for proposals was made to the four Gateway Authorities in July 2009 and these were subsequently assessed by a Project Selection Committee in September 2009 comprising

representatives from both the Regional Assemblies, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Finance. Following the assessment the Steering Committee approved the following grants:

**Cork Gateway: €2.80 million**

This is to co-finance the entire costs of the Christ Church project under which it is proposed to be converted into an Arts Centre in conjunction with the adjoining Triskel Arts centre. (Grant amount €2.18m), plus the Phase I costs of the St Luke's project consisting of essential conservation works to be undertaken to ensure the fabric and integrity of the building is protected.

**Dublin Gateway: €2.4 million**

This grant is in respect of the Smithfield project and consists of the completion of the Public Realm improvements to the square.

**Limerick/Shannon Gateway: €3.0 million**

This grant is in respect of the Limerick city centre project and consists of the 'Crossroads' public transport hub and public realm enhancement works.

**Waterford Gateway: €2.76 million**

The Waterford proposal consists of two separate but related projects. The first and largest project consists of the restoration and conversion of a collection of adjoining buildings (including a Protected Structure) in the city centre in Council ownership into a crystal manufacturing and visitor centre. Initially the centre is to house Waterford Crystal, but in the longer term the centre would house a number of craft crystal manufacturers. The related second project is located nearby and consists of extending and upgrading the Bolton Street car park to provide a dedicated tourist coach parking area, which is lacking in the city at present. Given the impending demise of Waterford Crystal from their Kilbarry site and given the importance crystal making to the city in employment and tourism terms, this proposal by the City Council to re-establish a crystal manufacturing and visitor centre in the heart of the city. This grant is in respect of the total costs of both projects.

## **Priority 4: Technical Assistance**

### **Introduction**

The overall objective of the Technical Assistance Priority is to support the management, evaluation and monitoring of the Regional Operational Programme. Under this Priority, expenditure which is in accordance with Article 46 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006 shall be eligible to cover costs incurred by the Managing Authority (or agencies acting on its behalf) in relation to the overall management of the Operational Programme. The Technical Assistance Priority also covers the cost of recoupment of approved costs of the EU Operational Committees of the Regional Authorities (at NUTS III level). The Technical Assistance priority covers the appropriate costs of the ERDF Financial Control Unit and other specialist units within the Department of Finance as well as the costs of the management controls undertaken by the Managing Authority.

The Priority is administered by the Regional Assembly under the general control of the Operational Programme Monitoring Committee. During the twelve month period from January to December 2009, the Managing Authority continued to implement the necessary arrangements to allow it to fulfil its responsibilities in relation to the Regional Operational Programme and the Structural Funds as a whole. The Regional Assemblies and their EU Operational Committees also continued with their responsibilities to examine and monitor EU-funded expenditure in their regions, and to serve on the Monitoring Committees on which they are represented. Cumulative expenditure to end December 2009 is **€0.310m**

# EU Funded Programmes

## Cross Border, Transnational & Interregional Cooperation

### INTERREG IV 2007-2013 Territorial Cooperation Objective

Cohesion Policy is the policy behind the hundreds of thousands of projects all over Europe that receive funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) – the two "Structural Funds" – and the Cohesion Fund. Economic and social cohesion – as defined in the 1986 Single European Act – is about "reducing disparities between the various regions and the backwardness of the least-favoured regions."

Cohesion policy encourages regions and cities from different EU Member States to work together and learn from each other through joint programmes, projects and networks. In the period 2007-2013 the European Territorial Co-operation objective (formerly the INTERREG Community Initiative) covers three types of programmes:

- **INTERREG IV A – Cross Border Co-Operation Programmes**  
52 cross-border co-operation programmes along internal EU borders.  
ERDF contribution: €5.6 billion
- **INTERREG IV B – Transnational Co-Operation Programmes**  
13 transnational co-operation programmes cover larger areas of co-operation such as the Baltic Sea, Alpine and Mediterranean regions, and North West Europe.  
ERDF contribution: €1.8 billion
- **INTERREG IV C – Interregional Co-Operation Programme**  
The interregional co-operation programme (INTERREG IVC) and 3 networking programmes (Urbact II, Interact II and ESPON) cover all 27 Member States of the EU. They provide a framework for exchanging experience between regional and local bodies in different countries.  
ERDF contribution: €445 million

The European Territorial Co-operation objective is financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and supports cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation programmes. The budget of €8.7 billion for this objective accounts for 2.5% of the total 2007-2013 allocation for cohesion policy.

The Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly has a delivery role in a number of INTERREG Territorial Cooperation programmes:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| INTERREG IV A Ireland Wales Programme      | <i>Managing &amp; Certifying Authority, JTS</i>                                |
| INTERREG IV B North West Europe Programme  | <i>PMC and PSC representation; Irish Contact Point and First Level Control</i> |
| INTERREG IV B Atlantic Area Programme      |  |
| INTERREG IV B Northern Periphery Programme | <i>PMC representation and First Level Control</i>                              |
| INTERREG IV C                              | <i>PMC and PSC representation and First Level Control</i>                      |

### Ireland-Wales Programme 2007-2013

The Regional Assembly is the Managing and Certifying Authority for the Ireland-Wales Programme 2007-2013. The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS), part of the Regional Assembly, is based in Waterford and responsible for the daily management of the Programme in association with the Welsh Assembly.



#### Background

The Ireland-Wales Programme is part of the Strand A Cross-border Programmes, which focuses on co-operation between adjacent border regions to ensure integrated regional development through common strategies. The Programme is based on the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas. With an overall grant budget of €52m ERDF, the Programme focuses on supporting joint projects to co-operate on issues under two key priorities:

#### **Priority 1: Knowledge, Innovation and Skills for Growth:**

- **Innovation and Competitiveness**
- **Skills and Competitiveness for Employment Integration**

#### **Priority 2: Climate Change and Sustainable Regeneration:**

- **Climate Change and Sustainable Development**
- **Sustainable Regeneration of Communities**

This Programme is seeking projects that aim to jointly address the challenges laid out in EU, Irish and Welsh policies and have a positive impact on local communities in the cross-border area.

#### Calls for Proposals

The third call for proposals was launched on in June, with a deadline on 25th September. The JTS received thirteen applications across both Priorities. This was a Thematic Round; and only applications from the targeted themes, Priority 1 Theme 2 and Priority 2 Theme 2, were considered.

In April, the Programme Steering Committee approved twelve applications from the second round with a total grant allocation of over €16 million. Participation from Irish partners included organisations from the third level education sector, business support organisations, community development and environmental sectors.

## Programme Events

The third meeting of the Programme Monitoring Committee took place on 18th June 2009 in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The Committee was updated on Programme activities and approved the launch of the third call for proposals.

The Programme's cross-border annual event was held on 19th June 2009, also in Dun Laoghaire. The event was chaired by Stephen Blair, Director of the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly. It doubled as an official event for the European Year for Creativity and Innovation and featured a number of speakers with interesting expertise and insights in this area.



### The Ireland-Wales Annual Event in Dun Laoghaire on 19th June 2009

*Pictured from Back left: Simon Baily, Head of Unit Ireland Wales Programme; Bethan Jones, Menter a Busnes; Dr. David Joyner, Director of University Innovation Bangor.*

*Front from left: Mary Whelan, The Creative Thinking Network; Stephen Blair, Director, S&E Regional Assembly and Mary McEvoy, Senior Regional Development Executive, Enterprise Ireland.*

Upon the launch of the third call for proposals, the JTS held a workshop in Waterford for potential applicants. Two similar workshops were also held in Wales to facilitate potential Welsh applicants. These events were attended by over one hundred and fifty interested parties, who were briefed in the Programme requirements as they related to the third call. Applicants were also given the opportunity to discuss their project idea with JTS staff at these events.

**Participants at the Ireland-Wales Annual Event in Dun Laoghaire on 19th June 2009**



**The Ireland-Wales Applicant Workshop in Waterford 12th August 2009**



The partners of the eleven projects approved in Round 2 attended a financial control workshop in Llandudno, Wales on 20th October 2009. Project partners were given advice and guidance on the Programme's financial requirements. The projects were also given the opportunity to meet with the JTS staff on a one-to-one basis to discuss their individual needs after the event.



## INTERREG IVB North West Europe Programme 2007-2013

### Background

On 26th September 2007, the European Commission approved a European Territorial Cooperation Programme for transnational cooperation between Belgium, Germany, Ireland, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom with the participation of Switzerland for the period 2007-2013. The Transnational Territorial Cooperation Programme "North West Europe" (NWE) involves Community support for 93 NUTS II areas in the participating countries, within the European Territorial Cooperation Objective framework. The Programme affects a population of about 180 million people (2003) living in the eligible area of 845,000 km. The total budget of the Programme is around €696 million. Community investment through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to around €355 million. Projects can apply for a grant rate of up to 50% ERDF.

### INTERREG IVB North West Europe Programme 2007-2013

The main goal of the Programme is to capitalise on the cooperation between key actors and to address territorial issues across the North West Europe area. The Programme seeks to contribute to the economic competitiveness of the region, thereby equally promoting regionally balanced and sustainable development. The Programme is a unique in that it offers a cross-sectoral approach to territorial development, which promotes close cooperation with universities, non-governmental organisations, public authorities, and the private sector to secure contribution towards economic and social cohesion and EU competitiveness. The Transnational Cooperation Programme offers the advantage of establishing links between actions at regional, national, cross-border and interregional levels. These efforts increasingly complement activities, policies and programmes in the participating countries.

To guarantee the visibility of cooperation, concrete Operational Programme achievements are indispensable. Currently, the new approach of transnational cooperation will focus on:

- a long-term, strategic approach
- the catalyst effect of cooperation projects for subsequent infrastructure investments that offer transnational relevance
- cross-fertilisation between projects that both address similar issues and complement other programmes
- overcoming transnational issues of interest to the area.

#### The Programme priorities are:

**Priority 1:** Developing the NWE knowledge-based economy by capitalising on our capacity for innovation

**Priority 2:** Sustainable management of natural resources and of natural and technological risks,

**Priority 3:** Improving connectivity in NWE by promoting intelligent and sustainable transport and ICT solutions and **Priority 4:** Promoting strong and prosperous communities at transnational level

Michael Buckley CPA, Auditor at the Regional Assembly has been designated First Level Controller for all Irish partners in the NWE programme. First Level Controls are the checks (audits) on project expenditure to be made during project implementation each time before submitting a payment claim, and covers 100% of all project spending declared and include the following checks:

- verification of the delivery of the products and services co-financed (as described in the approved Application Form);
- verification of the soundness of the expenditure declared;
- verification of the compliance of such expenditure with Programme, Community and National rules.

### Contact

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### Role of the Regional Assembly

The Assembly takes an executive involvement in the programme on behalf of the Irish Member State by providing representatives to both the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) and Programme Steering Committee (PSC).

Assembly representatives attended the four Programme Monitoring Committee meetings which were held in 2009 – PMC5: Brussels, 27 March 2009; PMC6: Arnhem, Netherlands, 24 June 2009; PMC7: Brussels, 15-16 September 2009 and PMC8: Brussels, 7 December 2009. Assembly representatives attended the two Programme Steering Committee meetings which took place in 2009. The fourth call for proposals closed on 17 April 2009, and the Programme Steering Committee held its fourth meeting (PSC4) in Arnhem, the Netherlands, on 25-26 June 2009 to consider the 32 applications received. Seven projects were approved in the fourth call. The fifth call for proposals closed on 7 October 2009 and the fifth Programme Steering Committee meeting (PSC5) took place in Brussels on 8-9 December 2009 to consider the 36 applications received – 12 were approved. The Assembly was also represented at the NWE Annual Event in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 8-9 October 2009. At the end of 2009, €170.2m ERDF or 51% of the Programme budget had been allocated. In the first five calls for proposals, a total of 14 Irish organisations were successful in attracting over €4.96m ERDF funding as part of 11 projects.

The Assembly oversees and assists with Irish involvement in the Programme, through the provision of the NWE Contact Point in Ireland. A transnational network of Contact Points act as decentralised representatives of the programme, located in each of the partner countries, working closely together and with the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) in Lille, France. Ms. Antoinette Jordan was appointed Irish Contact Point for the period 2008-2013.

At a local, regional, national and transnational level, the Contact Point role entails:

- Promoting the NWE programme and raising awareness of its opportunities and requirements through communication materials and events.
- Promoting the concept of transnational cooperation and its added value.
- A 'help-desk' function: responding to general enquiries about the programme.
- Providing a straightforward 'sounding board' assessment as to whether or not an initial idea has potential under NWE.
- Supporting project partnership building and transnational partner search
- Advising project promoters in the preparation of applications via draft proposal comments.
- Acting as an accessible liaison for approved project partners having specific questions related to programme or EU rules or experiencing implementation difficulties.
- Assisting the JTS and national Interreg authorities in the further development and implementation of the programme.

In 2009, the Contact Points facilitated four English-speaking Applicant Workshops for Irish applicants which were held in London on 21st January 2009 and 10th March 2009, in Waterford on 10th September 2009 and in Cardiff 26th November 2009.

The Interreg IVB NWE Roadshow visited Dundalk on 8 July 2009 which gave potential partners an introduction to the programme and the opportunity to hear from successful Irish projects.



### **INTERREG IVB North West Europe Roadshow, Dundalk, 8th July 2009**

*Pictured left to right: Stephen Blair, Director, Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly; Dr Paul MacArtain, Dundalk I.T.; Tony Maguire, FloodResilientCity Project, Dublin City Council; Antoinette Jordan, NWE Contact Point Ireland; Jeremy Gault, IIMCORE Project, University College Cork.*



## **INTERREG IVB Atlantic Area Programme 2007-2013**

### **Background**

The European Commission approved on 20th September 2007 a European Territorial Cooperation Programme for transnational cooperation between Ireland, Spain, France, Portugal and the United Kingdom for the period 2007-2013. The Transnational Cooperation Operational Programme "Atlantic Area 2007-2013" involves Community support for 33 NUTS II coastal areas in the participating countries, from the straight of Gibraltar to the North of Scotland. The programme affects a population of about 56 million people (2005) living in an the eligible area of 594.000 Km. The Operational Programme falls within the framework laid out for the European territorial cooperation objective and has a total budget of around €159 million. Community investment through the ERDF amounts to around €104 million.

## INTERREG IVB ATLANTIC AREA PROGRAMME 2007-2013

Within the priorities set by the European territorial cooperation objective, the main goal of the Operational Programme is to contribute to the territorial cohesion of the Atlantic Area through the reinforcement of the cooperation between the participating Member States. In order to consolidate existing cooperation structures and to achieve tangible results in terms of development of the knowledge economy the "Atlantic Area 2007-2013" programme seeks to:

- enhance the Atlantic maritime heritage;
- valorise the maritime resources of the Atlantic area;
- contribute to the emergence of new economic activity clusters;
- promote accessibility and logistic conditions;
- contribute to the balanced and sustainable development of the Atlantic area.

This implies a substantial change in the overall programme objectives in comparison to the previous programmes, in which many projects were limited to studies or exchange of information. The new type of transnational cooperation in the framework of the "Atlantic Area 2007-2013" programme focuses on concrete achievements, a long term strategic approach, the exchange of experience as well as the transfer of know how and cross fertilisation between projects that address similar issues.

### The Programme priorities are:

**Priority 1:** Promote transnational entrepreneurial and innovation networks

**Priority 2:** Protect, secure and enhance the marine and coastal environment sustainably

**Priority 3:** Improve accessibility and internal links

**Priority 4:** Promote transnational synergies in sustainable urban and regional development

### Regional Involvement: ATLANT-KIS PROJECT

Michael Buckley CPA, Auditor at the Regional Assembly has been designated First Level Controller for all Irish partners in the NWE programme. First Level Controls are the checks (audits) on project expenditure to be made during project implementation each time before submitting a payment claim, and covers 100% of all project spending declared and include the following checks:

During 2008, the Regional Assembly was successful in securing almost €250,000 ERDF for the region through the Atlant-Kis Atlantic Area project. This project, led by the Navarra Government in Spain with partners in Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal and the UK, aims to enhance the Knowledge and Technology Transfer and innovation processes on SMEs through the promotion and co-operation of Knowledge Intensive Services (KIS) in the Atlantic Area. The project was approved under Priority 1 Objective 1 and has a total budget of €2.36m, with a 65% ERDF contribution of €1.53m. The combined ERDF contribution for the Irish partners is over €455,000 ERDF. A Programme kick-off meeting was held in Pamplona in July 2009 and was attended by Stephen Blair, Director and Cllr. Jim Holloway, Cathaoirleach, S&E Regional Assembly.

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## INTERREG IVB Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013

### Background

On 28th September 2007, the European Commission approved a Transnational Cooperation Programme between Ireland, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom, with the participation of the Faeroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway for the 2007-2013 period. The "Northern Periphery 2007-2013" Programme involves Community support for the following regions within the European Territorial Co-operation Objective framework: Ireland: "Border, Midland and Western" (only the regions Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Galway and Mayo), "Southern and Eastern" (only the regions Clare, Limerick, Cork and Kerry); Finland: "Itä-Suomi", "Pohjois-Suomi" and "Länsi-Suomi" (only the region Keski-Suomi); Sweden: Mellersta Norrland and Övre Norrland; United Kingdom: "North Eastern Scotland" (only the region "North East Moray"), "South Western Scotland" (only the region "Dumfries & Galloway"), "Highlands and Islands" and "Northern Ireland" (with the exception of the regions "Belfast" and "Outer Belfast"). The total budget of the programme is around €59 million. Community investment through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) amounts to some €35 million. The four non-Member States finance their own participation and provide another €10 million to the Programme in "ERDF equivalent funding".

### INTERREG IVB Northern Periphery Programme 2007-2013

The Northern Periphery Programme applies to an area of great diversity that boasts considerable natural, cultural and human resources. Regions across the Programme area share similar opportunities and are faced with similar obstacles to development. The strategy for cooperation is based on a closer association in order to meet the objectives of the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies. The Programme aims to help peripheral and remote communities in the northern margins of Europe to develop their economic, social and environmental potential. This will be achieved through transnational collaboration in the fields of innovation, business competitiveness, accessibility, sustainable development, natural resources and cultural heritage.

#### The Programme priorities are:

**Priority 1:** Promoting innovation and competitiveness in remote and peripheral areas

**Priority 2:** Sustainable development of natural resources

**Priority 3:** Technical assistance

The Assembly provides an alternate member to Programme Monitoring Committee.

Michael Buckley, CPA, Auditor at the Regional Assembly has been designated First Level Controller for all partners from the S&E Region in the Northern Periphery programme. First Level Controls are the checks (audits) on project expenditure to be made during project implementation each time before submitting a payment claim, and covers 100% of all project spending declared.

#### Contact:

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Website <http://www.northernperiphery.eu/en/home/>



## INTERREG IVC Interregional Cooperation

### Background

Interregional cooperation works at pan-European level, covering all EU-27 Member States, and more. It builds networks to develop good practice and facilitate the exchange and transfer of experience by successful regions. It showcases what regions do well, to the benefit of those still investing. The INTERREG IVC Programme enables EU regions to work together and is structured around two priorities as outlined below. The ERDF contribution to the Programme is €321 million and participating countries are: EU-27, Norway and Switzerland.

### INTERREG IVC Programme 2007-2013

Authorities and stakeholders at local and regional level have a vital role to play in the achievement of the EU's strategies for growth, jobs and sustainable development. The exchange, sharing and transfer of policy experience, knowledge and good practices will contribute to the success of this objective.

The INTERREG IVC Programme is part of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective of the Structural Fund policies for the period 2007-2013. It aims, by means of interregional cooperation, to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies and contribute to economic modernisation and increased competitiveness of Europe, by:

- Enabling local and regional actors across the EU to exchange their experiences and knowledge;
- Matching regions less experienced in a certain policy field with more advanced regions;
- Ensuring the transfer of good practices into Structural Funds mainstream programmes.

#### The Programme priorities are:

**Priority 1:** Innovation and the knowledge economy

**Priority 2:** Environment and risk prevention

The Assembly provides one of the two Irish members of the Programme Monitoring Committee. Michael Buckley CPA, Auditor at the Regional Assembly has been designated First Level Controller for Irish partners in the Southern and Eastern Region, involved in the INTERREG IVC programme. First Level Controls are the checks (audits) on project expenditure to be made during project implementation each time before submitting a payment claim, and covers 100% of all project spending declared.

First Level Control includes the following checks:

- verification of the delivery of the products and services co-financed (as described in the approved Application Form);
- verification of the soundness of the expenditure declared;
- verification of the compliance of such expenditure with Programme, Community and National rules.

#### Contact:

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## ATLANTIC GATEWAYS INITIATIVE

In 2002, the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) was published, which sets out a 20 year plan for Ireland to achieve better regional development. The NSS recognises the role of cities and city regions in driving this. In particular, it recognises the combined development potential of the four Gateway cities of Cork, Limerick-Shannon, Galway and Waterford, known as the Atlantic Gateways. In 2006, the Atlantic Gateways Initiative Report was published. This report outlined how an integrated approach to the development of these four Gateways has the potential to develop and complement the Dublin Region and lead the drive towards more balanced regional development across the western and southern parts of the island of Ireland. The report studied the feasibility of the 'concept' of linkages between the Atlantic Gateways and explored what will be necessary for turning the Atlantic Gateways 'concept' into reality.

Implementation of the report has been underway since 2007 under the leadership of the Atlantic Gateways Steering group which is composed of representatives of the Regional Assemblies, Regional Authorities, Shannon Development, Dept. of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and private sector interests such as IBEC. This year, the Regional Assembly took over the management and administration of the Steering Group with Mr. Stephen Blair taking over as Chairperson until June 2010. To date, the group has been working on a number of actions from themes identified in the report and in particular on the fundamental issue of spatial planning in, around and between the four Gateway Cities. With this in mind and following consultation with the Regional Authorities and planning personnel in the Gateway authorities, four individual Atlantic Gateway Corridor reports are being finalised which set out the development frameworks for each inter-gateway corridor and these will be published shortly. The four Corridors are:

- Galway - Limerick/Shannon
- Limerick/Shannon - Cork

- Cork – Waterford
- Waterford - Limerick/Shannon

Ahead of the publication of these individual reports, in November, Minister Gormley published the Atlantic Gateways Corridor Development Frameworks Overview Report which sets out a high-level policy framework for planning authorities in and between the Gateways. An Atlantic Gateways Initiative Seminar was held on 20th November 2009 in Limerick to move the Gateways concept forward another step. This Seminar brought together people who hold positions of responsibility and influence from the public and private sectors together to generate debate and put ideas forward. Three very good speakers presented at the seminar which was then followed by two workshops. Mr. John McAleer, Director, South West Regional Authority outlined the background to the Initiative and put forward thoughts on the future direction. Mr Pearce Flannery, CEO Pragmatica gave a private sector perspective. Prof. Eamonn Murphy, University of Limerick outlined what the Higher Education contribution to the Initiative might be. Mr Michael Finneran, T.D. Minister of State at the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, gave the keynote address.



**Picture taken at the Atlantic Gateway Initiative Seminar held in Limerick.**

***Pictured from left:***

*Mr. John McAleer, Director South West Regional Authority; Mr. Pierce Flannery, founder of Pragmatica; Mr. Michael Finneran TD, Minister of State at Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government; Prof. Eamonn Murphy, Prof. of Quality & Applied Statistics University of Limerick; Stephen Blair Director S&E Regional Assembly*

### What is URBACT?

**URBACT** is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development. It enable cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal changes. It helps cities to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. URBACT enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe.

### OPENCities Project

OPENCities is a British Council project funded by URBACT and led by Belfast City Council in collaboration with a network of European cities. The partner cities include Bilbao, Bucharest, Cardiff, Dublin, Dusseldorf, Nitra, Poznan, Sofia and Vienna. URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

The partners all recognise that the arrival of large numbers of new residents can create great opportunities for innovation and progress in social, economic and cultural development.

OPENCities aims to explore how cities can attract and retain migrant populations and what initiatives cities can employ to make themselves a popular choice with international workers.

Cities that want to attract and retain international populations have to be 'open' cities that create a good 'offer' for international workers and foster a local climate that recognises and welcomes diversities and provides freedom of thought and speech.

The project will consider how cities can develop more proactive policies to create OPENCities to better attract or retain mobile international populations, which are important to both the competitive and convergence objectives of the European Union.

### DEVELOPMENTS:

- **Baseline studies**

Baseline studies were completed by each partner city during the development phase of the project. The aim was to show how open each city was and what initiatives were currently in place. These provided a starting point from which we can measure the impact of the project.

- **Index of Openness**

One of the objectives of OPENCities is to develop a common definition of openness allowing cities to carry out benchmarking and self-assessment. Data to populate an OPENCities Index will be gathered across the lifetime of the project and beyond. A feasibility study on whether openness can be measured internationally is complete and available online.

- **Local Support Groups**

Local Support Groups have been set up in each of the partner cities with the aim of spreading the learning from trans-national exchanges to a broader cross-section of local stakeholders and to ensure that the lessons learnt through the OPENCities project lead to change at a local level. Each city will produce a Local Action Plan (LAP) which will form the legacy of the project. LAPs will contain innovative pilot projects led by cities, policy makers and stakeholders that will actively address barriers to economic migrants.



*Pictured left to right:: Laura Leonard, European Unit, Belfast City Council; Derville Brennan, Programme Executive, Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly and Frances Dowds, Project Manager – Open Cities, Belfast City Council*

The S&E Regional Assembly is an associated Managing Authority for this project and Derville Brennan is the Assembly's representative. For further information about the OPENCities Project can be found at [www.urbact.eu](http://www.urbact.eu) or by contacting Derville Brennan, Programme Executive.

### **Members Annual Workshop – 30th & 31st January 2009**

A member's workshop was held in Faithlegg House Hotel, Waterford on 30th and 31st January 2009. The workshop was well attended and covered topics such as Alternative Energy & Energy Conservation Schemes, Wave Energy Technology and the S&E Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013.



**Picture taken at Members Workshop held in Faithlegg House Hotel, Waterford.**

*Pictured from left: Cllr. Jim Holloway, Cathaoirleach S&E Regional Assembly, Majella Kelleher, Sustainable Energy Ireland.*

## Joint Assembly Meeting – 6th March 2009

Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment, Mary Coughlan T.D., addressed a joint meeting of Ireland's two Regional Assemblies - the Border, Midland and Western and the Southern and Eastern at a special meeting in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim on 6th March 2009.



**Picture taken at the Joint Assembly Meeting held on 6th March 2009  
In the Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim**

*Pictured from left: Cllr. Jim Holloway, Cathaoirleach S&E Regional Assembly, Tanaiste & Minister of Enterprise Trade & Employment, Mary Coughlan, T.D., David Kelly, Assistant Director, S&E Regional Assembly*

## Graduate Prize Ceremony – 11th March 2009

In 2009, the Regional Assembly continued to support the 'Graduate Online Youth Quiz'. This is a free on-line educational Quiz for primary and post primary students throughout Ireland.

The aim of the Quiz is to increase student's civic, social and political awareness in an innovative, fun and engaging manner.

The Quiz operates on an annual basis during the academic year, each week a new set of questions relating to areas as diverse as the Arts, environment, politics, health and safety, the Irish language, European affairs, etc becomes available on the website. The website provides links to the relevant websites and WebPages making it easy for students to correctly answer the questions. Every Monday, a computer randomly selects five weekly winners and the appropriate schools are notified that one of their pupils has won a prize. The Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly sponsored a total of 3 prizes of a Trip to Strasbourg including one full day at the European Parliament. The winners were presented with their prizes by the Cathaoirleach of the Assembly at a ceremony in Dublin.



**Picture taken at the Prize Ceremony in Dublin in March 2009**

*Picture left to right: Coral Denn, Prizewinner; Cllr. Jim Holloway, Cathaoirleach S&E Regional Assembly; Nathan Lacey, Prizewinner; Marie Quinn, European Parliament Office in Ireland Joanne O'Mahony, Prizewinner*

Sponsorship of the Graduate Quiz will continue in 2010. Further details may be found at [www.graduate.ie](http://www.graduate.ie)

### **Gateways Development Index Report - 2nd April 2009**

The Gateway Development Index (GDI) Report was jointly launched by the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly and the BMW Regional Assembly in April 2009. This Index was commissioned by both Assemblies in conjunction with the Spatial Planning Unit within the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and measures the extent to which the designated Gateways are progressing as drivers of regional economic development. The Gateways Development Index (GDI) Report will measure the extent to which the designated gateways are progressing as drivers of regional economic development. The index takes account of the current level of development and trends across a common framework of key indicators which include population, enterprise, environment, economic, employment and social factors.

A public awareness survey was also conducted to capture residents' views of the quality of life and the impact of Gateway designation in each Gateway city/town. The Gateways in the Southern & Eastern Region include: Cork, Dublin, Limerick/Shannon and Waterford.



**Picture taken at the Launch of the GDI in April 2009**

*Pictured from left: Kieran Moylan, Assistant Director BMW Regional Assembly; Stephen Blair, Director S&E Regional Assembly  
Cllr Tom Crosby Cathaoirleach BMW Regional Assembly; Minister Michael Finneran; Adrian O'Donoghue, BMW Regional  
Assembly and Niall Cussen, Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government*

The Assemblies are also jointly involved in the preparation of a Survey on "Public Attitudes of Irelands European Union Structural Funds Programme 2007-2013". This is a follow on study to one conducted by the NDP/CSF Information Office for the 2000-2006 funding period. This research provided a benchmark for levels of awareness amongst the general public. The current survey aims to update this research and ascertain the level of knowledge/awareness of Irelands EU Structural Funds Programme, projects carried out, different EU Funds and also their contribution to economic and social development, the Operational Programmes and awareness of EU Funds.

### **Monitoring Committee Meeting – 18th May 2009**

At the annual monitoring committee meeting, the Director of the Regional Assembly, Stephen Blair, detailed the progress made in the roll out of the ERDF co-funded Regional Operational Programme with over €151 million of expenditure being reported during 2008. This expenditure was across a range of themes including support to Micro Enterprises, Research and Broadband and represents 22% of total funding available to the Regional Programme. Mr Blair noted that, in the context of the current economic conditions, such progress was considerable.

Mr Blair outlined that the Regional Programme, through the 3 Priorities, Innovation & the Knowledge Economy, Environment & Accessibility and Sustainable Urban Development, had a strong focus on the Lisbon & Gothenburg Agendas and, during 2008, considerable progress was made that will assist Ireland in meeting its' commitments as set out in the National Reform Programme.

In all over €680 million is available to the S&E Region under the Regional Programme, of which €147 million is provided by the EU under the Regional Development Fund.

In a drive to promote both the work of the Regional Assembly and progress on the Operational Programme to date, a number of outdoor publicity events were organised. The publicity events were driven through the use of two live, on-site Outside Broadcasts, one with WLR Radio Station Waterford and another with KFM Radio Station, Kildare. Assembly staff and members, along with previous grant recipients gave extremely informative interviews on the radio. The events were hugely successful in promoting the activities of the Regional Assembly.

### **Outdoor Broadcast WLR Radio, Waterford**



*Pictured left to right: Oliver Carroll, WLR Radio Station with Derville Brennan, Programme Executive, S&E Regional Assembly*

### **Outdoor Broadcast KFM Radio, Kildare**



*Pictured left to right: Cllr. Paul Kelly & Cllr. Jim Holloway, Members of the S&E Regional Assembly*



*Pictured left to right: Paul Carroll, Touchbase Technology with Mr. John Dunne, KFM Radio*

## Annual Conference & Publicity Event – 2nd October 2009

The Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly hosted their 10th Annual Conference and Publicity Event at the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath on 2nd October 2009. The theme of the conference was “Innovation Challenges for SME’s”, with a particular focus on the policy paper produced by the Enterprise and Productive Investment Sub-Committee of the Regional Assembly. The event aimed to provide small and medium enterprises with the opportunity to discuss the obstacles and challenges they face in introducing innovation into their business model.



*Pictured from left: Tom Hayes, Manager, HPSU Division, Enterprise Ireland; Stephen Blair, Director S&E Regional Assembly; Tim Fritzley, CEO In-Tune Networks; Cllr. Kevin Murphy, Cathaoirleach S&E Regional Assembly; Cllr. John Ryan, Cathaoirleach, Enterprise & Productive Investment Sub-Committee; Derville Brennan, Programme Executive, S&E Regional Assembly; Prof. Kieran Byrne, Director, Waterford Institute of Technology; Ivan Yates, Entrepreneur, Broadcaster & Former Politician*

The conference was opened by Cllr. Kevin Murphy, Cathaoirleach of the S&E Regional Assembly. Key speakers included Mr. Ivan Yates, Celtic Bookmakers, Newstalk FM Broadcaster and presenter of TV3’s Business Matters, Cllr. John Ryan, Cathaoirleach of the Enterprise and Productive Investment Sub-Committee of the Regional Assembly, Mr. Tim Fritzley, CEO InTune Networks, Mr. Tom Hayes, Enterprise Ireland and Prof. Kieran Byrne Waterford Institute of Technology.

## Presentation of Policy Paper – 29th October 2009

Following the successful launch of the policy paper entitled “Innovation Challenges for SME’s” at the Annual Conference on 2nd October, the policy paper was then presented to Conor Lenihan, T.D., Minister for Science, Technology, Innovation and Natural Resources at a meeting in the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment, Dublin on 29th October 2009.



*Pictured from left: Cllr. Jim Holloway, Cllr. Kevin Murphy, Cathaoirleach S&E Regional Assembly; Conor Lenihan, T.D., Minister for Science, Technology, Innovation & Natural Resources; Cllr. John Ryan, Cathaoirleach, Enterprise & Productive Investment Sub-Committee; Stephen Blair, Director.*

## **Staff Appointments and Leave 2009**

There were no staff appointments during 2009 as a result of the recruitment moratorium.

Mr. Alan Tobin and Ms. Rhona Tarrant, both students of the University of Limerick completed a 6 month work placement which proved very successful.

This year also saw staff members availing of a range of Work-Life balance policies, including Part-time working, Term Time Leave; Flexi-time, Maternity Leave, Parental Leave and E-Working. The Assembly continues to promote "work-life balance day" on an annual basis for all staff.

## **Freedom of Information**

The Regional Assembly continues to be subject to the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 - 2003. As required by the Act the Regional Assembly is required to publish two Manuals under Sections 15 & 16, as follows:

- Section 15 Manual gives an overview of the Assembly and how it works; the functions carried out, services provided and the various classes of records held by the Assembly.
- Section 16 Manual describes the rules, practices, procedures and guidelines of the Assembly.

The Regional Assembly is represented on the FOI Officers network, hosted by the LGMSB, by Ms. Orla Kelly, FOI Officer. The network meets three times per year in Dublin and its' main purpose is to provide a forum for FOI officers from a variety of public organisations to discuss issues of common interest relating to FOI. The network also hosts a Conference on an annual basis.

During 2009, the Assembly continued to furnish FOI returns in accordance with the regulations governing the submission of FOI statistics to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

## Irish Regions Office

The Irish Regions Brussels Office (IRO) was established in 2000 with support from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government as a resource for the Irish members of the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the regional authorities they represent. Over the last decade it has been developed to provide a range of information services, policy and project supports, and representational functions at EU level on behalf of local and regional bodies in Ireland.

During 2009, its staff assisted several local/regional authorities with their participation in EU funded projects and initiatives; took part in various Brussels-based regional networks; met with officials from the European Institutions and MEP's to discuss issues of interest; facilitated inter-regional contacts including briefing representatives from other European regions and cities wishing to learn more about the Irish situation; promoted the EU-related work that local and regional authorities in Ireland are involved with; and assisted a number of Irish study visits to Brussels. As part of its service it produces monthly EU News Bulletins, drafts occasional policy briefings and provides a web-based information service.

In its support role to the Irish CoR delegation, the IRO further developed the briefings service that members receive, especially through enhanced contacts and meetings with the Irish Permanent Representation to the EU.

### Structure & Partners

The IRO operates on the basis of an annual work programme, which is agreed with the Association of Irish Regions (AIR). It also actively maintains direct links with the local and regional government structures in Ireland and agreed working arrangements with other relevant organisations. Further information can be found at [www.iro.ie](http://www.iro.ie)

## The Association of Irish Regions

The Association of Irish Regions (AIR) is the national representative organisation of the eight Regional Authorities and two Regional Assemblies in Ireland. Its objectives are to express the collective view of its membership on matters concerning their constitution and the functions for which they have statutory responsibilities, and to offer advice to Government on matters pertaining to economic and social development, including matters relating to balanced regional development.

The Association also aims to facilitate the exchange of information and experience between its members, including arranging meetings, conferences, seminars, and producing publications which further the objective of improving the quality of service which members can give to their authorities and to the public. The AIR is composed of the Cathaoirigh (Chairpersons) and Directors of the Regional Authorities and Regional Assemblies.

## Conferences and Seminars

The Regional Assembly was represented at the following Conferences/Seminars during 2009:

| <b>Title</b>  | <b>Location</b>          | <b>Representatives</b> |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|
| ICLRD Achieving Regional Development                      | Letterkenny, Co. Donegal | 1                      |
| AMAI Conference   | Letterkenny, Co. Donegal | 1                      |
| International Local Government Convention 09              | Killarney, Co. Kerry     | 1                      |
| Effective Communications for Councillors                  | Waterford                | 2                      |
| Local Government & Renewable Energy Seminar               | Sligo                    | 1                      |
| Colmcille Heritage Trust                                  | Letterkenny, Co. Donegal | 2                      |
| Association of County & City Councils                     | Kilkenny                 | 2                      |
| BMW Annual Conference                                     | Roscommon                | 2                      |
| Third Sector Forum Conference                             | Cork                     | 3                      |
| Tipperary Peace Conference                                | Tipperary                | 1                      |
| Supporting Family Carers                                  | Castlebellingham         | 2                      |
| Public Relations & the Media Training Seminar             | Letterkenny, Co. Donegal | 1                      |
| Kerry Life Education Conference                           | Kerry                    | 5                      |
| S&E 10th Annual Conference                                | Meath                    | 14                     |
| Local Governance Seminar                                  | Letterkenny, Co. Donegal | 2                      |
| Clare Tourism Conference                                  | Antrim                   | 3                      |
| Information & Communications Technologies for Councillors | Longford                 | 1                      |
| Representative Entitlements                               | Galway                   | 1                      |
| Alternative Energy improving your Carbon Footprint        | Galway                   | 1                      |
| Ethics in Public Life                                     | Sligo                    | 1                      |
| Equality & Diversity in Modern Day Ireland                | Tralee, Co. Kerry        | 1                      |

## Staff - Regional Assembly



**David Kelly**  
*Assistant Director*



**Derville Brennan**  
*Programme Executive*



**Sonja Maurus**  
*Programme Executive*



**Sharon Crotty**  
*Programme Executive*



**Vincent Dunphy**  
*Programme Executive*



**Michael Buckley**  
*Auditor*



**Antoinette Jordan**  
*Programme Liaison Officer*



**Orla Kelly**  
*Staff Officer*



**Karen Coughlan**  
*Assistant Staff Officer*

## Staff - Regional Assembly



**Eve Hayden**  
*Assistant Staff Officer*



**Breda White**  
*Clerical Officer*



**Oonagh Hearne**  
*Clerical Officer*



**Yvonne Cooney**  
*Clerical Officer*



**Siobhan Curran**  
*Clerical Officer*

## Ireland-Wales Joint Technical Secretariat



**Simon Baily**  
*Head of Unit*



**Cathal Reilly**  
*Senior Finance Officer*



**Siobhán Rudden**  
*Development Officer*



**Rita McGarvey**  
*Project Officer*



**Therese Curran**  
*Project Officer*



**Breda Curran**  
*Project Officer*



**Caitriona Phelan**  
*Clerical Officer*



**Edel Hunt**  
*Clerical Officer*

## Consolidated Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31st December 2009

| Income  | Consolidated A/C 2009 | Consolidated A/C 2008 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Local Authority Contributions                       | 1,269,062             | 1,302,763             |
| Dept. of Finance                                    | 324,000               | 175,000               |
| Salary Recoupments from EU Programmes               | 250,866               | 109,094               |
| Superannuation Contra                               | 37,520                | 35,467                |
| Contra  | 104,338               | 734,873               |
| Staff Travel Recoupment from EU Programmes          | 6,773                 | 0                     |
| Interreg Staff Travel Recoupment                    | 5,000                 | 5,000                 |
| Miscellaneous                                       | 64,621                | 43,339                |
| EU Programme Recoupment                             | 1,528,834             | 431,019               |
| Technical Assistance Recoupment                     | 369,675               | 21,720                |
| Technical Assistance Drawdown Recoupment            | 0                     | 1,056,295             |
| Annual Conference Receipts                          | 0                     | 12,650                |
| Other   | 0                     | 1,644,127             |
| Match Funding                                       | 151,977               | 0                     |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>4,112,667</b>      | <b>5,571,348</b>      |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                                  |                       |                       |
| Payroll Costs                                       | 1,450,318             | 1,425,404             |
| Travel & Subsistence-staff                          | 94,660                | 134,441               |
| Ann. Alls. Art 35 (1)                               | 74,524                | 118,080               |
| Travel Art 35 (2) (A)                               | 27,311                | 32,841                |
| Pension Related Deduction                           | 37,218                | 0                     |
| Conference Fees                                     | 8,399                 | 11,585                |
| Office Equipment, Supplies & Contracts              | 35,866                | 52,519                |
| Energy Costs  | 16,117                | 13,456                |
| Post & Phone  | 21,159                | 36,153                |
| Rent, Rates & Water Charges                         | 143,761               | 142,805               |
| Repairs & Maintenance                               | 28,799                | 27,781                |
| Insurance   | 12,659                | 12,969                |
| Annual Report                                       | 6,085                 | 8,082                 |
| Professional Fees                                   | 33,484                | 33,629                |
| Public Relations                                    | 34,436                | 109,083               |
| Contributions                                       | 22,290                | 21,773                |
| Bank Charges  | 1,134                 | 1,177                 |
| Health and Safety                                   | 2,145                 | 943                   |
| Technical Assistance – Assembly                     | 112,031               | 255,586               |
| Technical Assistance - Regional Authorities         | 159,156               | 4,559                 |
| Technical Assistance – Atlantic Gateways Initiative | 4,891                 | 0                     |
| Technical Assistance – Monitoring & Management      | 3,397                 | 0                     |
| EU Programmes – Project Payments                    | 483,960               | 0                     |
| Miscellaneous                                       | 11,010                | 44,530                |
| EU Programmes – Match Funding                       | 81,977                | 132,000               |
| General Reserve                                     | 60,000                | 0                     |
| Depreciation Charge                                 | 28,939                | 25,798                |
| Territorial Co-operation Operating Programme        | 18,267                | 5,537                 |
| ESTIIC Sub Project Payments                         | 0                     | 329,341               |
| WIN Scheme  | 5,114                 | 3,974                 |
| Contra  | 104,338               | 976,753               |
| Superannuation Contra                               | 35,971                | 35,467                |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                               | <b>3,159,417</b>      | <b>3,996,267</b>      |
| <b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>            | <b>953,250</b>        | <b>1,575,081</b>      |
| <b>Balance @ beginning of Year</b>                  | <b>2,945,222</b>      | <b>1,370,140</b>      |
| <b>Balance @ end of Year</b>                        | <b>3,898,472</b>      | <b>2,945,222</b>      |

**Consolidated Balance Sheet  
for the Financial Year ending 31st December 2009**

|  | <b>Consolidated<br/>Account 2009</b> | <b>Consolidated<br/>Account 2008</b> |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|  | €                                    | €                                    |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                      | 98,632                               | 48,917                               |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                    |                                      |                                      |
| <b>Cash at Bank</b>                      | 4,100,872                            | 3,176,980                            |
| <b>Stock</b>                             |                                      |                                      |
| <b>Debtors</b>                           | 452,353                              | 286,387                              |
|  | <u>4,553,225</u>                     | <u>3,463,367</u>                     |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>               |                                      |                                      |
| <b>Creditors &amp; Accruals</b>          | 624,040                              | 514,828                              |
| <b>Credit Card</b>                       | 1,016                                | 0                                    |
| <b>Overdrawn at Bank</b>                 | 0                                    | 52,233                               |
|  | <u>625,056</u>                       | <u>567,061</u>                       |
| <b>Net Current Assets</b>                | 3,928,169                            | 2,896,305                            |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                        | <u>4,026,801</u>                     | <u>2,945,222</u>                     |
| <b>Financed by</b>                       |                                      |                                      |
| <b>Balance @ beginning of year</b>       | 2,945,222                            | 1,370,140                            |
| <b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b> | 953,249                              | 1,575,081                            |
| <b>General Reserve</b>                   | 60,000                               | 0                                    |
| <b>Fixed Assets Revaluation</b>          | 68,330                               | 0                                    |
|  | <u>4,026,801</u>                     | <u>2,945,222</u>                     |

