

CROSS-BORDER TRAINING/CAPACITY BUILDING IN IRELAND



The Centre for
Cross Border Studies



European Union
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THE POLITICAL BACKGROUND

- 1998 Good Friday Agreement – closing the Northern Ireland conflict – contained a strong cross-border dimension (between N.Ireland, a region of the UK, and independent state of Ireland)
- The Agreement established a North/South Ministerial Council and six cross-border public bodies (trade and business development, tourism, inland waterways, food safety etc)
- 700 public officials came to work in North-South cooperation. They had little or no training to work in this politically sensitive, post-conflict area.
- The Centre for Cross Border Studies and partners proposed a training course for these public officials to the EU funding body for Ireland and Northern Ireland.

CROSS-BORDER PUBLIC SECTOR TRAINING PROGRAMME

- Five training courses 2005-2008
- Funded by the EU PEACE programme
- Covered how public sector cooperation can help peace and reconciliation, the role of the EU, economic and business cooperation, local government cooperation etc.
- 140 Irish and Northern Irish public officials (central government, local government, state agencies) trained in cross-border cooperation
- EU funding expired in 2008 but governments were not able to provide follow-up funding because of financial crisis

TRAINING IN CROSS-BORDER PLANNING

- Cross-border training programme for local government representatives and officials in cross-border planning and local development
- Carried out by Centre for Cross Border Studies 'sister' body, International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD)
- Funded by EU INTERREG programme
- Four training courses (2009-2013) with 150 participants
- Outcomes: Memorandum of Understanding, Partnership Board and 'shared service' planning between local government bodies in Ireland and Northern Ireland

CROSS-BORDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT TRAINING

- Training course (in collaboration with Euro-Institut, Kehl, Germany) on how to plan cross-border cooperation projects so as to maximise their results and impacts (2013-2015)
- Helps project leaders and activists to build their capacity to implement better quality projects, more aligned with EU policies; to monitor and evaluate those projects, and to provide better information and evidence bases
- Mainly for local government and local civil society projects
- 30 events (10 courses + 20 one-to-one sessions) with around 150 people trained

CROSS-BORDER CITIZENS INFORMATION TRAINING

- www.borderpeople.info website provides online information (on jobs, health, education, tax, social welfare etc) to citizens crossing the Irish/N.Irish border to work, live, study or retire
- Managed by Centre for Cross Border Studies
- Funded entirely by EU
- In 2013 & 2014 over 140 advisors in Citizens Information Services in both jurisdictions will be trained in Cross Border Information Provision