HEA

Higher Education Authority
An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

CROSSBORDER PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Special EU Programmes Body
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An Ae

Department for
Employment
and Learning
www.delni.gov.uk

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EDUCATION
AND SCIENCE

EU Programme
for Peace and Reconciliation

CROSSBORDER PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

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INTRODUCTION

The ***Cross-Border Programme for Research and Education Contributing to Peace and Reconciliation*** is a joint initiative between the Department of Education and Science, Dublin and the Department for Employment and Learning, Belfast. This is the first time that the two government departments have jointly engaged in this type of collaborative research initiative.

For over two years, funding has been provided under the PEACE II Programme, administered by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), based in Omagh, Northern Ireland. The Programme was managed by the Higher Education Authority (HEA), Dublin, on behalf of the two government departments.

Steering Committee

A Steering Committee, which was established to oversee the Programme, was constituted to ensure community representation. The Steering Committee members were:

*   Ms Frances Dowds, Development Co-ordinator, NI Anti-Poverty Network.

*   Ms Fiona Ryan, Campaigns Manager, Barnardos.

*   Dr. Linda Bradley, Department for Employment and Learning, Belfast.

*   Mr. Tim Culliane (2006) and Mr. Ian McKenna (2003–2005), Department of Education and Science.

Dr. Eucharia Meehan, Head of Research Programmes at the Higher Education Authority, who managed the programme was an ex-officio member of the Committee. Administration for the programme and the committee was provided by Sorcha Carthy and the HEA research programmes team.

Mr. Michael Kelly, HEA, Ms Síle de Valera T.D., Minister of State, Department of Education and Science, Mrs. Catherine Bell, Deputy Secretary, Department for Employment and Learning, Dr. Eucharia Meehan, HEA, Mr. Pat Colgan, SEUPB.

Five research projects funded

The Cross-Border Programme supports research and development which will reap benefits for Northern Ireland and the border counties in particular. It is intended to help generate new policies for future peace programmes, to improve the effectiveness of existing ones, and to produce new models for collaboration.

Through the engagement of academic researchers and community stakeholders, the Programme aimed to build bridges between the higher-education sector and the community. The programme channelled this engagement so as to address issues arising from the legacy of conflict and take up opportunities arising from peace. Over €3 million was provided by the Peace II Programme to support the activities of five research projects, with significant resources in kind being contributed by the HEA, Department of Education and Science, Department for Employment and Learning and the higher-education institutions.

Each of the five projects looked at a different area where new policies and models might be generated to support mutually beneficial cross-border collaboration. The projects were initiated in spring 2004 and concluded in June 2006. Further to a successful evaluation of the programme in summer 2006, the sponsoring departments and the HEA will work to assist and enhance the dissemination and uptake of the research outputs. Extensive qualitative output from the projects will result in sustainable impacts emerging in the coming years.

Who Was Involved in the Research?

Academics working in fields such as bio-engineering, physics, economics, information technology, politics, psychology, social policy and social change, bring a diverse range of knowledge and skill to the Programme. Their work is enhanced by the views and opinions of participants from central and local government and from the communities. This cross-fertilisation of perspectives is a powerful feature of the Programme.

The following institutions carried out the associated research:

*   *Dublin City University*
*   *Letterkenny Institute of Technology*
*   *National University of Ireland, Maynooth*
*   *Queen's University, Belfast*
*   *Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast*
*   *University College Dublin*
*   *University of Ulster*

'This unique programme has engaged two major government departments on the island, as well as more than eight third-level institutions and other agencies, North and South, in a collaborative cross-border effort. As such, it has created a new community of people and institutions dedicated to professional and research-based investigation and validation of new mechanisms to promote peace and reconciliation.'
Catherine Bell, Deputy Secretary, Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland

These institutions, North and South, worked with many members of the local community, voluntary groups, schools and charities. The participation of these groups is considered to be a key component of the whole Programme. In the course of the Programme, people from all over the island contributed to surveys and engaged in study sessions and workshops concerned with education, trade and community issues. School children contributed essays about their personal experiences in order to provide additional insights for the researchers. Many valuable contributions were made by participants at seminars concerned with a range of topics including the care of children, the sick and the elderly, equality of opportunity, the impact of the border and consultation methods. Working with the researchers, these participants helped to evolve a deeper understanding of the impact of the border on personal, community and business affairs.
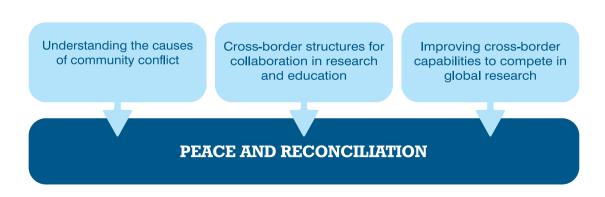
'By continuing to explore new avenues of thinking and new strategies of planning, the reputation of our education system is enhanced among the citizens of the island and the bigger prizes of peace and reconciliation become ever more attainable.'
Síle de Valera, Minister for State, Department of Education and Science, Republic of Ireland

Three Main Objectives

The overall purpose of the Cross-Border Programme was to contribute to the generation of a stable environment of peace and reconciliation. This purpose is served by pursuing three main objectives, namely:

- To promote an understanding of the causes of community conflict
- To develop cross-border structures for collaboration in research and education
- To improve cross-border capabilities to compete in global research

The projects were also designed to demonstrate the possibility of new models and processes for collaboration. These models, based on sound research, should be reliable and sustainable. It was intended that the Programme would generate a mutual understanding of a range of issues. This understanding would provide the foundation for collaboration, cooperation and action. In this way the Programme would empower people and organisations, North and South, to move towards the future.

Understanding the causes of community conflict

Cross-border structures for collaboration in research and education

Improving cross-border capabilities to compete in global research

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

The Five Projects

The five funded projects and the research institutions involved are as follows. Detailed information on each project, including working papers, publications and conference reports, is available on the individual project web sites.

E-CONSULTATION: EVALUATING APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESSES FOR CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY

The use of the internet for consultation is the subject area here. The project looked at how electronic communication and computing technologies can support human consultation, negotiation and mediation processes.

Research by: Queen's University, Belfast; National University of Ireland, Maynooth; Letterkenny Institute of Technology.

Web: www.e-consultation.org

EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: A FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE AND STABILITY

This project aimed to develop a common equality and social inclusion framework for the promotion of social justice and human rights.

Research by: Queen's University, Belfast; University College Dublin; University of Ulster.

Web: www.qub.ac.uk/heae

ITENIBA

INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION AND ETHNO-NATIONAL IDENTITY IN THE BORDER AREA

This project studied how identities are transmitted across generations within the family and what social conditions affect this. The project engaged with up to three generations of families both North and South of the border.

Research by: University College Dublin; Queen's University, Belfast.

HOW DOES RESEARCH HELP?
Research improves our knowledge and helps us to understand why things are the way they are. We can then look for ways to move forward together. A shared understanding of the past and the present equips us to build a vibrant future for ourselves and our families.

Web: www.ucd.ie/euiteniba

MAPPING FRONTIERS, PLOTTING PATHWAYS: ROUTES TO NORTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN A DIVIDED ISLAND

This project studied the changing nature of the Irish border as a social divide. It focused on the political and administrative background of the border and looked at new routes for promoting cross-border contact, co-operation and mutual understanding.

Research by: University College Dublin; Queen's University, Belfast.

Web: www.mappingfrontiers.ie

VIRTUAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR POINT-OF-CARE TECHNOLOGY: POC-SENSORS

This project was concerned with the development of new medical devices which can be used by individuals to diagnose medical conditions. The project focused on cardiac technologies which are of major clinical and social importance for the whole island.

Research by: Dublin City University; University of Ulster, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

Web: www.engineering.ulster.ac.uk/nri/poc.html

'These projects …have in common the stated aims of promoting cross-border cooperation, addressing the legacy of the conflict, and helping communities to take advantage of the opportunities arising from peace to promote a stable and peaceful society. The promotion of reconciliation and mutual understanding has been at the heart of all of these projects.'
Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, Special EU Programmes Body

'From these projects we are also learning more about some of the practical challenges to be overcome in the development of lasting and constructive relationships, taking account of the cultural and political inheritance of the past.'
Michael Kelly, Chairman, HEA

Programme events

The launch of the Cross-Border Programme by Ms Síle de Valera T.D., Minister of State, Department of Education and Science, Republic of Ireland took place on 20th May 2004, at the Slieve Russell Hotel, Co. Cavan.

A **Showcase Event**, hosted by the Higher Education Authority, took place on June 2nd 2005 at the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk.

A **Close-Out Conference** was held on 12th April 2006 at the Armagh City Hotel, Armagh.

These events featured guest speakers, presentations from lead investigators and researchers associated with the five projects, inputs from Respondents representing the community and exhibitions. Invitations were issued to members of the research community, media groups, community and voluntary groups, policy makers, NGOs and cross-border charities. A total of some 220 participants attended these events.

Reports on these two events are included as appendices to this publication.

Researchers at launch of the Cross-Border Programme with Minister Síle de Valera (Minister of State, Department of Education and Science), Mr. Will Haire (Permanent Secretary, Department for Employment and Learning) and Mr. Shaun Henry (Director of the Peace II Programme, SEUPB).

E-CONSULTATION: EVALUATING APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESSES FOR CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY

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E-CONSULTATION: EVALUATING APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESSES FOR CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY

The research associated with this project was led by Dr. David Newman, QUB; Dr. Honor Fagan, NUI, Maynooth; and Mr. Paul McCusker, Letterkenny IT.

OVERVIEW

The overall purpose of the project was to provide e-consultation as a practical option for public-sector bodies, the community and voluntary sectors in Northern Ireland and the border counties.

The project objectives were:

- To identify the social context and political implications of electronic forms of consultation and participation in Ireland, North and South.
- To identify the e-consultation technologies and processes that are most appropriate to the needs of diverse local communities and to determine the best ways to apply these technologies and processes.
- To advise, help, study and evaluate at least two electronic consultation exercises over the project period and to report on what has been learned from them.
- To disseminate the results of the research through an online e-consultation guide and training workshops in order to help groups develop their awareness of, and basic skills in, e-consultation.

There is very little e-consultation in Ireland at present. Most consultations use the conventional techniques of the consultation document, a few public meetings, and either service satisfaction surveys (in the North) or committee co-option (in the South). These techniques discriminate against many people including teenagers, travellers, former prisoners and carers. Many people find it difficult to attend public or other meetings. Can e-consultation techniques allow different people to participate effectively?

The researchers first set out to understand the practice and context of public consultation (with or without technology) across the whole island. This was done using surveys, focus groups and interviews. All local authorities and central government agencies, North and South, and a sample of community and voluntary organizations were surveyed.

In addition, eight focus groups in Donegal and Northern Ireland were established to help the researchers to understand the perspective of consultees. The participants in these groups were people who frequently have to respond to consultations.

The researchers found that, although consulters and consultees are generally in favour of consultation, there are notable differences in attitudes and expectations. Focus groups

'Consultation is an organisational learning process by which people learn things from the public bodies and the public bodies learn things from the citizens...a knowledge transfer process.'

David Newman, Lead Investigator

Dr. Honor Fagan, Mr. Paul McCusker, Dr. David Newman, Mr. Yan Chen.

complained strongly about the consultation process, the need to read long consultation documents and to take time out from other activities in order to respond. Consulters recognise this consultation fatigue but do not rate it highly.

Furthermore, there may be a tendency by government to view consultation as a way of gaining knowledge of citizens's views rather than a mechanism for active participation in decision-making. However consultees expect to have at least some impact on decision-making. Also there are fundamental differences in the ways that researchers view consultation. For example, public administration researchers may concentrate on the efficiency of decision making, while other theorists see consultation in terms of relationships between citizens and government.

How can researchers evaluate the effects of technology if there is no agreement on the fundamental characteristics of consultation? Various 'theory building' workshops were hosted by the project in order to address this issue.

There are hundreds of electronic communication technologies that could be used to support public consultations. However, the technology used must be appropriate to the type of communication involved. The researchers have produced the following classification system to serve as a guide in this respect.

- One-way transfer of information (e.g. a web site explaining the background to a consultation)
- Supporting dialogues (discussions and conversations)
- Instantaneous chats (e.g. online chats, audio conferencing)
- Ongoing discussions (e.g. e-mail mailing lists, discussion forums)
- Structured communications
- Exploring problems and planning solutions (e.g. group support systems used to facilitate brainstorming during a long meeting, when everyone can type at once)
- Measuring needs and preferences (e.g. online surveys, and instant electronic polls)
- Writing documents (e.g. blogs and wikiwiki pages, which a group of participants can easily edit online)

Mr. Barney McLaughlin of Donegal County Council, speaking at the Programme Conference in Armagh, April 2006.

'E-consultation is using technology in a user-friendly way...engaging the wider community so they see technology as being a gateway rather than a barrier to consultation.'
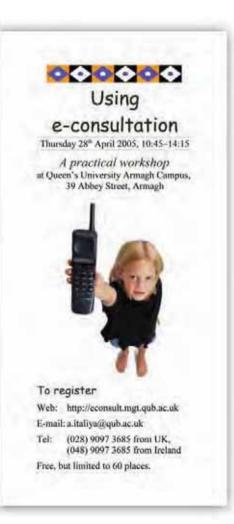Barney Mc Laughlin,
Community Respondent,
Donegal County Council.

By distinguishing these types of communications, participants can easily select the most useful technologies.

In order to familiarise people with various technologies, an e-consultation workshop was held in Armagh. The eighty participants could experience hands-on technology sessions or listen to speakers with experience of running e-consultations. A further seven demonstrations were also arranged, three in Letterkenny IT and five in Queen's University, Belfast.

The researchers also contributed to one of the few e-consultations in Northern Ireland, AdviceNI's consultation on the problems families have had with the Inland Revenue's management of tax credits.

Four e-consultation trials were carried out by the following organisations.

*   The North-South Exchange Consortium is a group of fourteen bodies that co-ordinate exchanges between 3,000 schools and youth clubs. The consultation process was concerned with cross-border educational exchanges.

Using e-consultation
Thursday 28th April 2005, 10:45–14:15

A practical workshop
at Queen's University Armagh Campus, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh

To register
Web: http://econsult.mgt.qub.ac.uk
E-mail: a.italiya@qub.ac.uk
Tel: (028) 9097 3685 from UK,
        (048) 9097 3685 from Ireland
Free, but limited to 60 places.

- The Wheel organised a consultation in the Republic of Ireland on what citizens understand by 'active citizenship', and the role of the community and voluntary sector in facilitating it. The findings will be used to inform the input to the government task force on active citizenship.

- The Probation Board in Northern Ireland held a consultation on a proposed change to the location of probation offices and reporting centres.

- Waterways Ireland used the technologies for their Section 75 consultation, in both jurisdictions.

The surveys, focus groups, workshops and demonstrations mentioned above all contributed significantly to the dissemination process.

The researchers have also given talks at the NICVA AGM, a Kable E-government workshop and the E-Consultation Study Group. Initial research findings have been presented to researchers and practitioners at e-government conferences in Antwerp, Copenhagen and Bled, and to the Cross-Border Programme conferences at Dundalk and Armagh.

The project web site has been developed to include both guidance on e-consultation (www.e-consultation.org and wiki.e-consultation.org), and a demonstration capability.

'We had very poor experience of consultations over the last year. Most agencies carrying out these (consultations) overwhelm you with paper. It is a very disempowering process all round.'
An NGO Project Focus Group Participant

Project highlights

National/International Recognition of Work

- The researchers were invited to run a workshop at the European Conference on E-Government.
- The project was consulted by Oireachtas officials planning a joint e-consultation on the Broadcasting Bill.
- Complete co-operation was received from the Northern Ireland central government bodies, there was a 100% response rate to their survey questionnaires.

Further Research and Linkages Formed - National/International - 3 examples

The following linkages were formed:

- With e-government researchers, through the Copenhagen and Marburg conferences.
- With governance researchers in Institute of Governance, through theory-building workshops.
- With community informatics and e-consultation researchers, through on-line networks

Outreach to Stakeholders - 3 examples

- Eighty people from Ireland, North & South, attended the e-consultation workshop in Armagh in 2005.
- Seven demonstrations of e-consultation technologies in Letterkenny and Belfast for participants from a range of voluntary sector and public sector organisations.
- Collaboration with four organisations on running e-consultation trials or experiments: Waterways Ireland, the North-South Exchange Consortium, The Wheel, Probation Board NI.

Major Conferences

- Papers and workshops at two European conferences on e-government in Antwerp and Marburg.
- DEXA e-government conference, Copenhagen.
- Community Informatics Research Network Conference, Cape Town.
- E-challenges conference, Slovenia.

Main Outputs/Conclusions

- There is a conflict in values and expectations between consulters and consultees.
- There is a similar gap between the different theories that might be applied to evaluating e-consultation (e.g. theories of deliberative democracy and public sector modernisation).
- Technologies that can be used to improve consultations have been identified, together with methodologies for selecting them to support particular types of communication and knowledge transfer.
- Replicating existing consultation processes on-line does not automatically solve the problems, but with careful design, integrating new processes and new technologies, consultations can be improved.
- An online e-consultation guide for practitioners is being developed (see www.e-consultation.org).

EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: A FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE AND STABILITY

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EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: A FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE AND STABILITY

The research associated with this project was led by Prof. Eithne McLaughlin, QUB; Prof. Kathleen Lynch, UCD; Prof. Paddy Hillyard QUB/UU.

OVERVIEW

The overall purpose of this project was to develop a framework for equality and social inclusion which will promote justice and human rights in both parts of Ireland. This framework is intended to be a tool for government and other institutions for generating policies and legislation. It is also intended to stimulate political debate on equality issues.

In addition, the researchers aimed to produce an equality index, a set of indicators that can be used to monitor the extent to which equality objectives have been met.

This was a scholarly project, designed to produce high-quality research publications. The related project objectives were:

- To provide 20+ public events stimulating debate on equality issues and to promote care as an equality issue into public space
- To produce a working paper series of 30+ papers
- To produce up to 12 peer-reviewed journal papers and one book

In pursuing these objectives, the researchers set out to show that equality makes a critical contribution to social development and to the resolution of conflict. Furthermore, inequality carries high costs both in economic and political terms.

The researchers also wished to make people aware that Ireland is a society of high social inequality compared to many other countries.

The term *equality* means different things to different people and in different societies. A person in Northern Ireland may equate it with *religion*, while someone in England would

Mr. Brian Symington, Royal National Institute for the Deaf, Northern Ireland, speaking at the Programme Conference in Armagh, April 2006.

'The project has increased the awareness that equality is not reducible to equality law'.

Brian Symington, Director, Royal National Institute for the Deaf, Northern Ireland

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Prof. Paddy Hillyard, Prof. Kathleen Lynch, Prof. Eithne McLaughlin

probably think of *race*. In Wales and Scotland, the response would have to do with class. Of course these are generalisations, but these common perceptions reflect the unique histories of the societies involved

In fact, equality can be defined in many ways. If it is desired to create an egalitarian society on the island, four key objectives must be addressed. These are:

• Economic equality
• Socio-cultural equality
• Political equality
• Affective/emotional equality

The link between the first three and social conflict is well accepted. Economic deprivation, social exclusion and denial of political rights have been, and are, drivers of conflict in many parts of the world.

Affective equality has received less attention but is of critical importance. It is based on feelings of love, care and solidarity. Individuals and groups require a sense of security in order to live in a peaceful and stable environment. This is absolutely necessary for human development and social progress.

Another serious issue in this area is the fair distribution of the work load of caring for others. In turn, this raises the question of whether those who care for others in our society are adequately recognised and rewarded. The researchers analysed the available data on this issue and also consulted with many real carers. They discovered that there is a deep ambivalence in Irish culture about caring and loving, both in the academic world and in public life. This raises serious questions about the issue of unpaid care labour in our economies. Historically, such labour was mainly provided by women and this situation still holds, so issues of gender also emerge.

All of these factors can play a part in our perception of equality; to consider them in isolation

leads to an unbalanced view. For example, social equality does not necessarily mean economic equality. On the other hand materialistic definitions of equality are also inadequate. At present, in both the North and South, equality is often viewed as the right to compete for a 'slice of the cake'. This leads to an excessively materialistic environment. Theories of social justice need to move from this point to a more collaborative model. The model should be inclusive, catering for the needs of different individuals, and groupings such as ethnic minorities. It is also critical that such a model be sustainable over time.

Accordingly, it is necessary to develop the new framework so that equality is seen in a broad and inclusive way, taking all factors into account. A framework of this nature will inform government policy, thereby making a positive contribution to peace and stability.
Such a framework has been developed by the researchers and is published in the book *Equality from Theory to Action*, published by Palgrave Macmillan. It has been further developed in a number of papers produced during the conduct of the project.

In the course of their work the researchers engaged in many international conferences including a major conference in Belfast which was attended by some 200 people. Over twenty papers were delivered at such events. In addition to the cross-border collaboration, international linkages were formed with universities in Canada and six European countries. The project developed strong ties with the *Egalitarian World Initiative* which is a network of 78 UCD staff, committed to the pursuit of global justice. The researchers also contributed to a notable radio discussion on the subject of *equality and the media*. (RTE Radio One, November 2005). In addition, an archive of some 50 discussion/working papers has been established while several peer review processes are under way. A series of books is also in negotiation with publishers. Notably, the researchers achieved the Marie Curie Transfer of Knowledge award to develop the intellectual base for the Egalitarian and Socially Inclusive Europe (ESIE) project. In addition, one of the researches has been granted Government of Ireland Fellowship to produce a book relating to the work of the project.

Another notable achievement is the generation of the Standard of Living Index for Northern Ireland (NILSI). This index takes account of non-monetary indicators and is easy to use in order to compare across different groups in this society. It is a valuable tool for policy makers.

'Partnership with research has been a real benefit, bringing together community, statutory bodies, the voluntary sector and academics. There is a need to share, and to take the learning and apply it.'
Brian Symington, Director, Royal National Institute for the Deaf, Northern Ireland

A sample of artwork by community groups as part of the outreach dimension of the project

Project highlights

National/International Recognition of Work – 3 examples

- The international conference showcasing the project's work was attended by 200 people in Belfast.
- The project's research was the basis of a three city lecture tour of Eastern Canada in November 2005. Fourteen lectures, seminars and roundtables were provided by Eithne McLaughlin to universities, public bodies and NGOs.
- The project's research informed keynote presentations by John Baker and Kathleen Lynch at the University of Lancaster's International Conference on the Moral Economy and invited papers by Prof. Kathleen Lynch at the International Sociology of Education Conference, London and the ICTU Biennial Women's Conference, Belfast.

Further Research and Linkages Formed – National/International – 3 examples

- Collaboration was established (and is ongoing) with several Canadian scholars e.g., Cassan, Jensen, Hensen; a funding proposal by Hill, Hensen and McLaughlin on disability in Ireland and Canada is under consideration by a major philanthropic organisation.
- The research was the basis for the submission of a seminar series funding proposal to NORFACE by Eithne McLaughlin and Gerry Bouchet at QUB, involving Ireland, Finland, Estonia, Slovakia, Denmark, Germany, the UK and Canada.
- The research was the basis for the submission of an EU Marie Curie host fellowship for the Transfer of Knowledge (ToK) funding proposal; this was submitted by the UCD Egalitarian World Initiative (EWI).

Outreach to Stakeholders – 3 examples

- A presentation was given by Eithne McLaughlin on poverty & equality to the annual joint meeting of the Equality Authorities of Ireland, Belfast.
- A Visualising Equality Roundtable and Community Art Exhibition was held in Belfast involving six representatives of political parties, and the main churches as well as four community groups.
- RTE Radio One broadcast a Special 'Tonight with Vincent Browne' radio programme, recorded in UCD with a panel discussion involving Justine McCarthy, Eddie Holt, Kathleen Lynch and Helen Shaw on the topic of equality and the media.

'Socially just policies and practices provide people with a sense of security. Peace and conflict are highly relevant to race relations everywhere. Ireland has a serious contribution to make in this area.'
Eithne McLaughlin, Lead Investigator

Major Conferences

- Pluralism, Human Rights and Equality, University of Helsinki.
- University of Lancaster, Neo-liberalism Conference.
- The Scandinavian Symposium on Childhood and the Rights of the Child, Oslo.
- Social Policy Association Conference, University of Bath.
- EGOV 4th International Conference on Electronic Government, Copenhagen.

Main Outputs/Conclusions

- A special issue of *Social Policy and Society*, Cambridge University Press, will include six of the project's working papers (McLaughlin ed. in press, 2006).
- Baker, Lynch, Cantillon and Walsh, *Equality from Theory to Action* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004).
- Lynch and Baker, 'Equality in Education: An Equality of Condition Perspective', *Theory and Research in Education* 3/2 (2005).
- Borooah, Vani K., 'Bridging the Gap Between the Measurement of Poverty and of Deprivation', *Applied Economics Letters* 12/6 (2005).
- Hillyard and Patsios: ELSI *a Standard of Living index for Northern Ireland paper presented at the developing alternatives conference* (2006).

'Our Equality Framework has been adopted by the National Women's Coalition in Northern Ireland and the NESF in the Republic. These are large outcomes from relatively small resources.' Kathleen Lynch, Lead Investigator

INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION AND ETHNO-NATIONAL IDENTITY IN THE BORDER AREA

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INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION AND ETHNO-NATIONAL IDENTITY IN THE BORDER AREA

The research associated with this project was led by Dr. Jennifer Todd, UCD and Dr. Orla Muldoon, QUB.

OVERVIEW

The project examined questions of how ethno-national identity is transmitted over generations and how and when identity shifts. These questions have urgent national significance. The researchers were particularly concerned with the impact of long-term social and political change on identity. The impact of European integration, cross-border cooperation and the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 are particularly relevant here. The research was centered on the Irish border area where processes of conflict and transformation have been intense. There was a particular focus upon young people.

The project objectives were:
* To explore the nature and (re)definition of identities on the Irish border
* To analyse identity transmission in the border areas of Ireland
* To analyse the role of the family, civil society and the state in identity formation and change

In keeping with these objectives, the outputs for this project comprise a number of research publications.

The researchers set out to identify the psychological, social and political mechanisms which force identity into opposition, and the types of interventions which might lead to reconciliation. They wished to identify the impact of political change in bringing peace. The outcomes of such research can have significant impact on future policy formulation.

The researchers feel that this project is theoretically and methodologically innovative. They moved beyond the standard categories of national and religious identity such as *British*, *Irish*, *Protestant* and *Catholic*. They looked at the sense of group belonging associated with these categories and at the range of assumptions and values underpinning them. They also examined the social context of identity and how conflict and settlement can affect the formation of identity.

In the course of the project, the researchers wished to test a number of hypotheses as follows.
* Ethno-national identity is persistent, but its content changes.
* Major structural changes such as those ushered in by the Good Friday Agreement are likely to provoke identity shift.
* Identity is likely to change from one generation to the next as social context and experiences differ from generation to generation.
* Identity is likely to be significantly different on each side of the border because of the different state contexts.

'The border is not just a line on the map. Its impact is complex. It's about more than simply being English or Irish.'
Jennifer Todd, Lead Investigator

Dr. Orla Muldoon, Dr. Nathalie Rougier, Mr. Neil Brady, Dr. Jennifer Todd

- The younger generation is likely to have the least oppositional forms of identity because of the peaceful and Europeanised socio-political environment in which they have been raised.
- Familial and traditional modes of transmission of identity are likely to become less important in the recent period of major change with influences such as Europeanisation, globalisation, refugees and in-migration.

In working through these issues, a variety of techniques were used including open-ended interviews, participant observation, essay writing studies, focus groups and quantitative instruments. The research spanned both sides of the border and included a mixed marriage sample.

A unique feature of the research was that interviews were conducted over three generations, within a family where possible. Some 128 in-depth interviews with these *3-generational* families were carried out.

The researchers collected 261 essays written by young people aged 14–16. In addition, 1026 adolescents were interviewed for their views on national and religious identity. The focus group study involved three schools in Northern Ireland and two in the South. A total of 41 students completed in-depth focus group interviews.

Also, a participant observation exercise was undertaken in a Southern location over a three-month period.

During these processes, people explained what being Irish meant to them, how they thought about the border, their daily experiences and feelings of fear and danger. The research results were often surprising and paradoxical. The researchers intend to continue the analysis over the next year. Findings to date include the following broad conclusions.

- Identity change and identity shift does actually take place, but it is not common. The researchers believe that the project has developed innovative ways of understanding this.

Mr. Tony Kennedy, Co-operation Ireland, speaking at the Programme Conference in Armagh, April 2006.

'How can we shift attitudes towards positive work? We have seen here that community work, building reconciliation slowly and steadily, does work but does take time. Let's all learn from it.'
Tony Kennedy OBE,
Chief Executive,
Co-operation Ireland

- Young people remain strongly attached to national identity, even in oppositional form, and do not differ much from their elders in this respect. Europe has little influence on identity and is seen by many as economically rather than culturally relevant.

- Stigmatisation, injustice and violence can have an immediate affect on the formation of oppositional identities. Personal experience can be more important than political or ideological change.

- Identity change (like identity transmission) is mediated through the family and legitimised in terms of family history. It is also mediated through civil-society institutions.

- The border itself plays *multiple symbolic functions*. In fact, the very discourse by which individuals deny its significance for national identity recreates a *moral* border between North and South. Those people who view themselves as possessing a civil and inclusive perception of cultural and religious differences can, in fact, exclude Northern Protestants who feel threatened by such inclusiveness and Northern Catholics who may not share this type of expansive Irishness. However the term moral may have an implicit national content since the researchers feel that this sense of civility is pervasive in Southern society.

These findings have a significant relevance to policy makers. Rights legislation, protection against injustice and violence and access to redress processes are critical to preventing the move to opposition. Cross-Border organisations are crucial because they can provide the linkages and experiences which promote cohesion. In essence, policy must be flexible enough to cope with constantly changing influences on identity.

Project highlights

National/International Recognition of Work – 3 examples

- Papers were published in high-impact international journals *(Theory and Society, Political Psychology, Journal of Peace Research).*
- Top international figures were hosted by ITENIBA at workshops and conferences (Lamont, Robertson); invitations to present at expert international workshops were received (Harvard and Van Leer, Jerusalem).
- Three offers were received from international journals of special issues devoted to ITENIBA conference proceedings *(Nationalism and Ethnic Politics, Nations and Nationalism; National Identities).*

Further Research and Linkages Formed – National/International – 3 examples

- Strong, effective linkages were forged between UCD and QUB, building research capital, and continuing collaboration in new funding applications.
- Extensive national research linkages were developed through a series of four expert workshops, involving some thirty of the country's experts.
- An international network on European Identity was formed with QUB, University of Magdeburg, University of Bangor, University of Lodz.

Outreach to Stakeholders – 3 examples

- Two border workshops were conducted at Ballymascanlon and Castleblayney.
- Three major school studies involving sixteen schools, 1211 adolescents and their parents were undertaken. Interviews with 128 individuals were carried out, North and South, as part of an intergenerational study involving forty families.
- Contacts and exchanges with schools, churches, organisations and community groups North and South were forged (Triskele; Rural Voice; Farney Community; Magnet Centre; Volunteer Bureau; Mothers and Toddlers Groups; Iontas Centre). Significant media coverage was achieved with a BBC Radio 4 documentary related to project findings.

Major Conferences

- O. Muldoon was invited to contribute to the British Psychological Society Annual Conference, Manchester, and also delivered a paper to the American Psychological Society Conference, California *(Adolescents' Perceptions of Identification and Socialisation)*.
- J. Todd was invited to contribute to Ethno-Racism and the Transformation of Collective Identity Workshop, Harvard University, USA and to the Conference on Comparative Peace Processes, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem *(The role of changing perceptions, conceptual frames and identities in successful implementation processes)*.

'We have to get this information out. That's vital, and for the future, start looking at some of the things that do work.'
Tony Kennedy OBE, Chief Executive, Co-operation Ireland

- L. Cañás Bottos, N. Rougier, & J. Todd delivered a paper *(Reconfiguration of Ethno-National Identities in the Irish Border Area)* at the 10th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University, USA.
- J. Todd presented a paper (Identity, identity change and group boundaries in Northern Ireland) to the Council for European Studies Conference, Chicago, USA.
- N. Rougier has been invited to deliver a paper *(Narratives of Ethno-National Identity and Creative Self-Definition in Ireland's Borderlands)* at the 29th Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, Barcelona, Spain (accepted - July 2006).
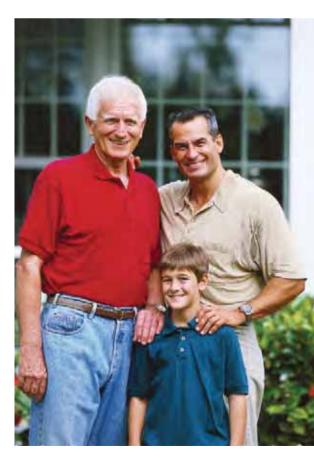
Peer-reviewed publications

- Todd, J., 'Social Transformation, Collective Categories and Identity Change', *Theory and Society* 34/4 (2005).
- Todd, J., Muldoon, O., Trew, K., Cañás Bottos, L., Rougier, N., and McLaughlin, K., 'The Moral Boundaries of the Nation: The Constitution of National Identity in the South Eastern Border Counties of Ireland', *Global Review of Ethnopolitics* (forthcoming June 2006).
- Muldoon, O., Trew, K., Todd, J., Rougier, N., and McLaughlin, K., 'Religious and National Identity after the Belfast Good Friday Agreement', *Political Psychology* (forthcoming February 2007).

Peer-reviewed publications – under review

- Cañás Bottos, L., 'Sovereignty on the Irish Border', Critique of Anthropology.
- McLaughlin, K., Muldoon, O., and Trew, K., 'Young People and Ethno-National Identity Along the Border of Northern Ireland', British Journal of Developmental Psychology.
- Muldoon, O., McLaughlin, K., Trew, K., and Rougier, N., 'Adolescents' Explanations of Paramilitary Involvement in Ireland', Journal of Peace Research (Accepted subject to revision).
- A special double issue of Nationalism and Ethnic Politics, entitled "Social Transformations, Political Conflict and Ethno-National Identity: A Comparative Perspective", editors, J. Todd, N. Rougier, and L. Cañás Bottos. Expected publication date December 2006.
- This will be followed by a book six months later, published by Routledge in the series Nationalism and Ethnicity.

Main Outputs/Conclusions

- Identity change is real but uncommon – cross-community links, cross-border institutions and networks play a key role.
- Injustice, violence, stigmatisation 'essentialise' oppositional identities.
- In the South, transformation from 'ethnic' to 'moral' nationalism has occurred.
- The permeability of religious, familial, national and political understandings of identity accentuates social division.
- Transmission of traditional identities and social attitudes between generations is seen as inevitable – so 'tolerance' needs to be actively encouraged.

MAPPING FRONTIERS, PLOTTING PATHWAYS: ROUTES TO NORTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION IN A DIVIDED ISLAND

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MAPPING FRONTIERS, PLOTTING PATHWAYS: ROUTES TO NORTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION IN A DIVIDED ISLAND

The research associated with this project was led by Prof. John Coakley, UCD and Prof. Elizabeth Meehan, QUB.

OVERVIEW

The project aimed to specify and assess factors which help or hinder cross-border contact, and also to inform future policy on issues such as cross-border partnership, sustainability, potential for inter-communal reconciliation and the impact of European integration.

The project objectives were:
- To undertake a mapping of the effects of the border
- To assess the impact of the border as barrier, bridge and source of material costs, benefits and symbolic identity for the peoples on the island
- To analyse the extent of institutionalised cross-border activity that had survived or developed by the beginning of the 21st century
- To explore the options for promoting positive North-South contact and co-operation which is calculated to undermine the ill-effects of the border while acting to the mutual benefit of both communities

In keeping with these objectives, the outputs for this project comprise a number of research publications.

Historical and comparative research approaches were used in the course of this project. In the historical category, detailed work was undertaken on the Boundary Commission and submitted as a Ph.D. thesis. In the comparative category co-operation across the border was compared with the situations at other European partitions. The evolution of the two Irish economies was also analysed.

The project commenced with a critical academic workshop on the proposed research strategy. A key paper by Coakley and O'Dowd was presented and debated with a view to providing an overview of the priorities. Following this, significant work on a bibliography of cross-border topics was undertaken.

Further research included an in-depth mapping study of funded cross-border projects and the cataloguing of relevant research theses and other ongoing work being conducted in higher-education institutions on the island.

In addition, survey research was conducted with 200 respondents in the mid-border region to determine the impact of the border on the everyday behaviour and identities of Catholics and Protestants on either side. Thirty face-to-face interviews arising from ten in-depth case studies of cross-border co-operation were also conducted.

'The research de-mystified and undermined simplistic, one-dimensional and static perceptions of 'the border'. It identified a wide variety of perspectives on and experiences of the border....and it challenges the practice of reading history backwards.'
Liam O'Dowd, Lead Investigator

Prof. Elizabeth Meehan, Dr. Cathal MaCall, Prof. John Coakley.

An extensive survey of some 600 civil society organisations in the Republic of Ireland was undertaken, to establish the extent to which the border disrupted their activities. Following this, telephone interviews took place with twenty survey respondents. Three in-depth face-to-face interviews were then carried out with selected representatives of the legal and sporting professions and a leading charity.

As the work of the project proceeded, it became clear that interest in it extended outside the initial group of researchers. Consequently the project team grew from fourteen to twenty. Visiting researchers from Italy and Hungary also made contributions. A Ph.D. student at Queen's became directly involved, and three leading US scholars have also participated.

Specific topics addressed in the course of the project include:

- The role of education, at primary and secondary levels, in overcoming lack of mutual understanding and prejudices, North and South.
- The relationship between models of cross-border administrative cooperation in the mid-20th century and in modern times.
- The effect of the border on the organisation of civil society, for example, in the field of sport.
- The role and perspective of the European Commission and other EU institutions in facilitating North–South collaboration.
- The impact of partition on the behaviour and identities of people living along sections of the Fermanagh/Monaghan/Cavan border.
- An ethnographic study of the perceptions of border Protestants.
- The viability of EU social partnership models as institutional frameworks for North–South cooperation.

In the course of the project two major conferences were held, one in Dublin and one in Armagh. The researchers engaged with many stakeholders including the Taoiseach and members of the Irish and British Governments and legislative entities, the Northern Ireland Assembly, North–South bodies, local governments and NGOs. All legislatures in Ireland were briefed by mail and almost all of those who responded replied positively.

A dedicated project website was published. A mapping study of funded cross-border projects was finalised and is now held in the database at the Centre for Cross Border Studies. Thirty four discussion papers, fifteen working papers and seven ancillary papers have been produced. A special issue of a prestigious international journal *Political*

Dr. Peter Smyth, North-South Ministerial Council, speaking at the Programme Conference in Armagh, April 2006.

'There is an enormous amount of potential good will and cooperation going on but there seems to be an absence of strategic vision.'
Peter Smyth, Community Respondent, Former Joint Secretary, North-South Ministerial Council

Geography, will feature the project and two edited books are in preparation.

In terms of understanding conflict, the researchers feel that the project has undermined any one-dimensional, static perceptions of the border and has identified a range of perspectives and experiences. Partition has been a process, rather than merely an historical event. It has been institutionalised by the development of state institutions on either side. This process is on-going. Consequently, the border has developed in ways unintended by many of its historical protagonists.

The project identifies threats to cross border co-operation, including the virtually continuous political stalemate, institutional inertia and a diminishing funding base for cross border co-operation. It also points to the absence of a strategic framework for cross-border co-operation.

The researchers engaged in this project feel that they enjoyed a unique experience in inter-disciplinary terms. The interaction between institutions, North and South, was unprecedented. Many disciplines were involved, anthropologists, economists, geographers, historians, political scientists and sociologists. Powerful cross-border ties were formed linking universities, NGOs and research institutes. In addition, research capacity was enhanced by linking postgraduates in UCD and QUB.

Political borders raise important issues – economic co-operation and integration, security, immigration, refugees, asylum seekers and ethno-national conflict. These issues have global significance. The researchers feel that they have 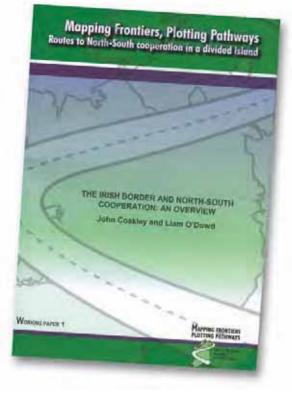begun to develop an important international role in this area. Collaborative links have been established with the universities of Pennsylvania, Texas, John Hopkins and also with a number of European universities. The Centre for International Border Research at Queen's is about to begin a three-year project as part of a Sixth Framework initiative on cross-border co-operation at the new external borders of the European Union.

An Taoiseach. Mr. Bertie Ahern T.D. with Prof. John Coakley at the Mapping Frontiers Conference in Dublin, January 2006.

Whilst outputs are now emerging, conclusions and impact will emerge over time. The research process is ongoing. Discussion papers have been translated into working papers and then into actual

publications in international journals. It is the belief of the researchers that this process will help to produce a deeper understanding of the topics being studied involved and insights into possible policy initiatives going forward.

Project highlights

National/International Recognition of Work – 3 examples

- *Major international academics* from the USA attended the project conference. Invitations have been extended to team members to attend a range of important international conferences (Denver; Durham; El Paso; Washington; etc.).

- The researchers are currently in the process of producing six articles for a special edition of the journal *Political Geography*, and other similar initiatives are planned.

- There were major engagements with the public sector, including the Taoiseach, members of houses of the Irish and UK parliaments, Northern Ireland Assembly, North–South bodies, local councillors and officials, NGO representatives and other activists. All parliamentarians on the island of Ireland were briefed by mail on the project, and almost all of those who replied responded very warmly.

Further Research and Linkages Formed – National/International – 3 examples

- The initial team of twelve researchers expanded to include a cross-disciplinary, international team of some forty researchers.

- Significant inter-institutional cooperation has occurred involving the Institute for British-Irish Studies, UCD, the Centre for International Borders Research (CIBR), QUB, the Centre for Cross Border Studies, Armagh, the ESRI and Democratic Dialogue, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Texas, and the John Hopkins University in Maryland.

- Approximately 400 members of the public (members of civil society organisations, political parties, government departments, north-south bodies and other organisations) became involved.

Outreach to Stakeholders – 3 examples

- An advisory group comprising former senior public servants from North and South was formed.

- All major bodies focusing on North–South issues, each of which was represented at a high level in at least one of the project events, became involved.

- The project has given impetus to new programmes and research proposals by graduate students in Queen's University, Belfast and University College Dublin.

Major Conferences

- *The North-South Bodies Five Years On*, Mid-term Conference, Dublin, was attended by about 150 participants.
- *Routes to North/South Cooperation in a Divided Island*, Project Conference, Armagh, was attended by about 80 participants.

- *Partition and the creation of a 'border region'*, Study Group, Armagh, was attended by over fifty education, community relations and local representatives.

- *The regeneration of the border areas,* Study Group, Clones, was attended by thirty individuals, including representatives of border area community groups, and the business and local government sectors.

- *The economic effects of the border*, Study Group, Newry, was attended by approximately thirty people, including several involved in promoting cross-border economic contacts.

Publications

The researchers have been involved in many publications which can be found on the project website. In addition, the following collective publications are anticipated:

- *Journal of Cross Border Studies*, volume 1, 2006: this will contain versions of some papers arising from the project.
- *Political Geography*, volume 26, 2007: this will contain a special issue, provisionally entitled 'The Irish border: past, present and future', based on six articles drawn from the work of the project.
- *Living with partition: the meaning of the Irish border*: is the provisional title for a book proposal under discussion with a publisher; this will focus on the socio-cultural impact of the border in recent decades.
- *Crossing the border: new North-South relationships on the island of Ireland* is provisional title for a book under discussion with a publisher; this will focus on the changing significance of the border in the political, economic, social and administrative spheres since the Good Friday Agreement.

Main Outputs/Conclusions

- Conferences linking academics with the world of policy, and study groups and other activities focussing on problems in specific border areas that are of wider significance, took place.

- A dedicated public project web page, with additional material on web sites of host bodies in Dublin and Belfast; and a private web page (password protected) to facilitate group discussion have been developed.

- Dissemination activities to date include thirty four discussion papers, fifteen working papers and seven ancillary papers have been produced.

- Significant publications have been produced.

- Graduate work in both Dublin and Belfast has experienced a significant boost due to enhanced interest in the areas being covered by the project.

VIRTUAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR POINT-OF-CARE TECHNOLOGY: POC-SENSORS

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TO PEACE
RECONCILIATION

VIRTUAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR POINT-OF-CARE TECHNOLOGY: POC-SENSORS

The research associated with this programme was led by Prof. Brian MacCraith, DCU and Dr. Eric McAdams, UUJ, in collaboration with Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

OVERVIEW

In 2003, the National Centre for Sensor Research at DCU (Dublin) and the Northern Ireland Bioengineering Centre at UUJ (Belfast) developed a strategy to establish an internationally competitive Virtual Centre in Point of Care Technology. The centre was to be known as POC-Sensors Ireland. The Cross-Border Programme provided the opportunity to put the strategy into effect for potential long term economic and social benefit, on the island of Ireland.

The project objectives were:
- To establish a virtual all-Island Centre in Point-of-Care Technology
- To develop advanced *platform technology* for the sensitive and accurate detection of cardiac markers for the diagnosis of cardiovascular disease
- To contribute towards peace and reconciliation through education outreach initiatives

A POC sensor is a small electronic device, built on a *chip*. It is used to detect certain biological conditions which can then be used to diagnose a person's state of health. The advantages of such devices are clear. Health issues can be dealt with more effectively if the symptoms are detected early. A POC sensor can be used by individuals in the home or elsewhere. For example, the device containing the sensor might be strapped onto the wrist and diagnostic results returned to an expert using radio technologies such as the mobile phone system. This would eliminate the necessity to visit surgeries and hospitals. Where needed, the patient can then benefit from early intervention. This is of major clinical and social importance and could have significant impact on healthcare costs as well as the obvious effects on quality of life.

However, electronic devices which are sensitive enough to carry out reliable diagnostic processes, and which can be produced at a reasonable cost, are not available at present. New technologies are required to enable their development. The POC project has developed such technologies.

It is also necessary that any new diagnostic processes are accepted by the medical community. To ensure this, the clinical expertise of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast was included in the project. The RVH is world renowned in the area of cardiology. Their input will ensure the clinical acceptability of the sensor technology in the acute hospital setting.

The researchers anticipate that sensor technologies will be applied across a wide range of

'We want to establish a virtual centre of excellence in point-of-care technology by bringing together complementary expertise from both sides of the border...the sensor island'
Brian Mac Craith, Lead Investigator

Dr. Stephen Hearty, Dr. Bob Blue, Prof. Jim McLaughlin, Mr. Mark Tweedie,
Dr. Raman Subramanian, Prof. Eric MacAdams, Prof. Brian MacCraith, Mr. Nigel Kent.

areas including blood analysis, cardiac conditions, liver and renal functions, infectious diseases and gene disorders. These are common health issues so the project could result in major benefits for healthcare delivery on the island.

The immediate technical objective was to develop advanced *platform technology* for the sensitive and accurate detection of *cardiac markers*, which are critical to the diagnosis of cardiovascular disease (CVD).

A *platform technology* provides the underlying system on which software, which is necessary to carry out the diagnostic processes, can run.

Cardiac markers are molecules that the body releases into the bloodstream when certain conditions are present. The presence of these molecules help doctors to assess the extent of acute coronary conditions and to identify and manage patients who are at risk. In essence, cardiac marker tests identify blood chemicals associated with heart attack, officially known as *myocardial infarction* (MI). The myocardium is the muscle layer of the heart wall. *Infarction* is tissue death caused by an interruption in the blood supply.
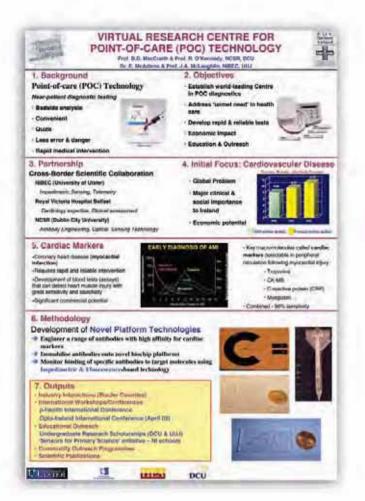

Prof. Brian MacCraith with A Level Students from Belfast High School after a presentation on the project research and its potential.

Cardiac issues are of extreme concern worldwide, affecting many lives and imposing huge costs on health services. According to the World Health Organisation heart disease and stroke kill around 17 million people a year, which is almost one-third of all deaths globally. Heart disease and stroke are expected to become the leading cause of death and disability worldwide by 2020. The situation is expected to worsen with the number of fatalities increasing to over 20 million a year by 2030. The fatality rate in Ireland is generally above the EU average. It was noted by one of the researchers that more that one in three people in the Programme's conference audience in Armagh would die from CVD.

The ability to carry out on-the-spot tests and receive early diagnosis will be a significant achievement. It will require a new generation of diagnostic devices – the devices being developed by this project.

The researchers have also made a significant breakthrough in the detection of *warfarin*. Warfarin (also known as *coumadin*) is a commonly used anti-coagulant and the ninth most prescribed drug in the United States. It is the drug of choice for treatment of a variety of disorders including threatened stroke.

The researchers have developed computer simulations to model the behaviour of the sensors with high rates of success. They have achieved 20 fold increases over existing systems in detection sensitivity as well as making innovative use of camera technologies. The terminology associated with this project is unavoidably technical. The developments taking place involve *fluorescence-based sensor systems, automated image processing, fluid-flow dynamics, microfluidic delivery systems, polymer biochip platforms, optical detection systems and wireless based telemetry*. These and other technologies are being applied to miniaturised components.

The cost effective development processes being created by this project have the potential to revolutionise diagnostics. The influence on people's quality of life will be significant. In addition, these technologies and processes have substantial economic potential. Healthcare is a global issue and cost-effective early detection systems are of interest to the

"What you have heard today is something…it impacts on people directly in the clinic, directly in outpatients and directly in reducing mortality…and that is hugely important."   Dermot Kenny, Expert Medical Respondent, RCSI and Beaumont Hospital

healthcare sector in all countries. The project presents the opportunity for Ireland to become the world centre of excellence in diagnostic processes. Commercial interest has been expressed by various parties and these development are ongoing.

In addition to their technical pursuits, the researchers also engaged in outreach activities, visiting Belfast High School and ten primary schools in the Belfast area, in order to present and describe their work.

Project highlights

National/International Recognition of Work - 3 examples

- The researchers were invited to present at major international conferences covering the subject matter of the POC Sensors Ireland project.
- As part of the Forfas NanoIreland Initiative, which is planning for major national investment in nanotechnology, three task force panels were established, one chaired by Prof. Brian MacCraith and one by Prof. Jim McLaughlin.
- The project presented to and chaired the Opto Ireland 2005 Conference.

Further Research and Linkages Formed – National /International - 3 examples

- The researchers collaborated with Prof. Antonio Ricco, Stanford University, USA.
- The project was involved in the Assisted Living Project for the elderly in Dundalk with DCU and UU.
- There was collaboration with the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM), Lyon, France.

Outreach to stakeholders

- Visits and presentations were made to ten primary schools in the Belfast area.
- An Engineering Student from the University of Ulster joined the NCSR as a Hamilton Undergraduate Scholar to carry out a three-month research project entitled "Microarray Biochips for Diagnostics", and participated as a demonstrator during the "Sensational Sensors" workshop at the BA Science Festival.
- Prof. Brian MacCraith delivered a presentation to A-level students on the POC Sensors Ireland Project at Belfast High School.

An elderly heart attack patient when asked "have you lived all your life in Letterkenny" looked back at me and said "not yet"...Healthcare transcends all political boundaries, our patients teach us something.'
Dermot Kenny, Expert Medical Respondent,
RCSI and Beaumont Hospital

Major conferences

Presentations were delivered at the following conferences:
- 2nd International Workshop on Personal Health Management Systems, Belfast
- HEA Conference on Cross-Border Programme for Research and Development Contributing to Peace and Reconciliation, Dundalk.
- Opto Ireland 2005 Conference
- Europtrode 2006 Tübingen, Germany
- Future Health Foresight Exercise for Scandinavian Countries (FOBIS), Stockholm

Main Outputs/Conclusions

- The project facilitated cross-border co-operation that will contribute towards significant advancements in the development of realisable POC diagnostics.
- Key benefits of cross-border, cross-centre collaboration in areas of complementary expertise have been realised.
- Significant technology development has taken place which can lead to commercialisation opportunities either through spin-outs or licensing.
- Beneficial outreach activities have taken place at both primary and secondary schools north and south of the border.
- There has been substantial interest from community groups in the focus and outcomes of the project.

'Sensor Ireland has a role to play on an all-Ireland basis as a magnet for incoming companies'
Jim Mc Laughlin,
Lead Investigator

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS

'In tackling this challenge the contribution of the higher-education sector is critical and will require the forging of partnerships with public and private sector interests in a triumvirate of influence and cooperation.'

Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, SEUPB

'We shouldn't forget that this co-operation is only two years old. I think lots of things will happen as a result of this work, and that there will be multiple benefits... but you have to give some time for initiative to grow and for people to become more familiar with the outputs and conclusions, and for politicians to notice it....'

Dermot O'Doherty, Intertrade Ireland

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A sample of the stakeholders involved in the projects.

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

INTRODUCTION

The Cross-Border Programme was designed to be people-centred. Accordingly, the views of the Lead Investigators, the Respondents who contributed at the Close-Out Conference and representatives of community and voluntary organisations, have been captured throughout the programme.

Interviews were held with the purpose of gathering the views, opinions and observations of stakeholders involved in the Programme. These stakeholder observations form the basis of the commentary in this section of the report. They are presented in the context of the three objective strands of the Programme, namely:

- Understanding of the causes of community conflict
- Developing cross-border structures for collaboration in research and education
- Improving cross-border capabilities to compete in global research

This section does not constitute an evaluation of the Programme or of the individual projects involved. Formal evaluation has been carried out by the HEA/SEUPB. The comments are intended to establish a subjective measure of the impact of the Programme on the consciousness of the stakeholders.

Understanding of the causes of community conflict

The research resulting from three of the projects, Mapping Frontiers, Equality and Social Inclusion and ITENIBA, offer considerable insight into the possible causes of community conflict in the border area. These projects are concerned with the fundamental drivers of conflict, namely:
*   The border itself and its impact on communities. (It was remarked that there has been no serious study of the border until modern times.)
*   Inequality, injustice and exclusion, universally recognised roots of conflict.
*   The formation of identity; also a well recognised potential source of division.

The E-Consultation project is also very relevant to the phenomenon of conflict. Better consultation tools and techniques can present greater opportunity for contributing to debate, a deeper involvement in decision making and a deeper sense of inclusion.

The POC project, with its potential for commercial exploitation, can contribute to socio-economic cohesion through the business development process. In this sense, the project is seen as a catalyst for many other activities.

The following comments, based on the inputs from stakeholders, offer a range of perspectives.

*   *The border, which was constructed through the process of partition, isolated antagonism and created 'folk memories' which are passed on from generation to generation.*

*   *The border can be viewed as a 'process', its reality can change continuously.*

*   *This process has been deepened by the different ways in which history is interpreted.*

*   *It is particularly important to identify the dynamics (of conflict) that could be changed.*

*   *It is not ideology that polarises people, but experience of violence and injustice.*

*   *People need guarantees of rights and redress.*

*   *Research shows that time itself doesn't necessarily make any difference to peoples identities.*

*   *The practical aspects of reconciliation happens in the community and conduct of business.*

*   *E-Consultation processes allow broader scope for consultations and more feedback from community members.*

A border town – ITENIBA project and Mapping Frontiers project studied impacts of the border.

- *Health has a significant impact on peoples' quality of life and therefore on social satisfaction. Commercial spin-outs have the potential to contribute to social stability.*

- *The projects created novel interaction between those who wouldn't normally interact.*

DEVELOPING CROSS-BORDER STRUCTURES FOR COLLABORATION IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

All the researchers expressed a high level of satisfaction with the cross-border and interdisciplinary nature of the projects. Whereas those involved in the social sciences frequently work with other specialists, for many it was an unusual and rewarding experience. It was remarked that the difference in philosophies and language from the various disciplines enriched the research. Without exception, the view is that there is great potential for powerful cross-border collaboration in the educational field. The feeling is that it would be a great loss if this opportunity is not grasped.

However, the need for strategic and policy frameworks and, of course, funding is universally recognised. It was pointed out that universities and other institutions do not have the resources to engage in many cooperative ventures.

Time is also a factor. The outcomes of social research projects can take a long time to come to fruition. A ten year span was suggested by one researcher. Therefore, there must be a foundation of ongoing support. However, policies must be generated to facilitate this foundation, the onus is on politicians to foster and develop these policies.

Post-graduate mobility on the Island should be addressed.

The outcomes of the five projects offer a clear demonstration of the power of cross-border collaboration in research. A common theme expressed by researchers is the fundamental importance of mobility among institutions. Mobility is seen as critical but is unlikely to take place to any significant extent without appropriate policies and structures.

The following is a selection of pertinent observations from non-academic stakeholders:

- *Cross-border research collaboration is really only beginning to take off.*

- *The impact of collaboration is demonstrated in the project results; there is proof that cross-community links work.*

- *Mobility of researchers is critical; possibilities include joint North–South scholarships and post-graduate exchange programmes.*

- *Post graduate mobility would be very cost-effective and would ensure continuity.*

- *It is important to involve post-graduates – this roots the process in young people.*

- *Higher-education institutions must endeavour at all times to explain and inform the public about the work in which they are engaged.*

IMPROVING CROSS-BORDER CAPABILITIES TO COMPETE IN GLOBAL RESEARCH

The general feeling here is that Irish researchers can readily compete on the global stage. The ability to do so would be enhanced by relevant cross-border structures.

All projects have achieved international recognition from major research institutions in Europe, the USA and elsewhere. Irish researchers have made many contributions to international conferences and workshops as a result of the Programme. These facts are clearly set out in the individual projects outputs.

Furthermore, research into the impact of borders will be required on an increasingly frequent basis in various global locations in the future. Ireland is well placed to achieve a leadership position in such research and the Cross-Border Programme has contributed to this capability. The EU Sixth Framework, looking at cooperation across external borders of the EU, is an immediate example. Ireland has a definite potential in this respect. In the words of one researcher, *'We can choose topics where we have excellence if we want to be a niche research country e.g. conflict, identity and ethnicity'.*

As mentioned previously, this question of competing in research is inseparable from the issues of research strategies, frameworks and policies. As stated by one researcher, *'What we require now is a broad perspective, international and global.'*

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION – MOVING FORWARD

The overarching purpose of the whole Programme is to impact positively on the objective of peace and reconciliation. Commentators frequently pointed out that peace and reconciliation are not the same thing; peace can exist without reconciliation but could be fragile in its absence.

Measurement of the research impacts in this area is difficult after such as short time frame, nevertheless, it is generally felt that there is, or will be, positive results. In general these views are based on the following inferences.

- If the causes of conflict are researched and effectively understood, then proactive policies can be put in place to remove such causes. As mentioned previously, political action is seen as a necessary ingredient of sustainability.

- If people are engaged and interacting in cross-border or cross-community projects, they will generate an understanding of the positions and perspectives of others.

All of the projects have engaged with the community at some level. Indeed such engagement is central to the research process for four of the projects – Mapping Frontiers, Equality and Social Inclusion, ITENIBA and E-Consultation. All five projects have engaged in outreach programmes in order to inform and educate community members. This has happened at many levels and has involved schools as well as community groups.

It is a common view that sustainable cross-community interaction must be founded on real

everyday processes, whether business or social. A project which has commercial potential offers the prospect of inward investment and employment. Therefore, it is felt that the POC project has significant potential for these outcomes. It has developed, and is developing leading-edge technologies which will be of interest to many powerful players in the healthcare sector. In addition, the implications for patients, carers and health service organisations are difficult to over estimate.

ENSURING OPTIMUM IMPACT FOR RESEARCH

Very valuable work has been carried out in the course of the Programme. At this point researchers generally feel that specific action is necessary for the projects to deliver the optimum impact. As indicated previously, they are unanimous about what is required,

- a strategic framework,
- research policies,
- mobility of personnel.

This is particularly true of social projects which do not have objective commercial measures. Research is necessary to understand the dynamics of change and to offer rational support to policy formulation. Sustained research in this area is unlikely to take place without the necessary funding. It is also desirable that research findings be widely disseminated and processes for dissemination also require support.

These observations on the issues of sustainability, dissemination and support structures from community respondents are reflected in the views of the researchers.

COMMUNITY RESPONDENTS

Community members (as represented mainly by participants at the Close-Out Conference) share the view of researchers about the relevance of the research, the dissemination of results and the requirements for sustainability. This is reflected by the following comments.

- *The projects have significant impact but follow-up is needed. For this, partnerships between universities and the voluntary sector are required i.e. a 'joined up approach'. The potential for impact on the economy is huge.*

- *Political support is required. Sympathetic politicians should be contacted and brought on board. Bodies such as the British-Irish Parliamentary Body, Cooperation Ireland and County Development Boards should also be engaged.*

- *A business-like plan must be developed against a clear strategic vision.*

- *Funding is required to sustain work, but it is a relatively small amount compared to what is going into peace and reconciliation programmes.*

- *It is absolutely desirable that this work should continue. The next step is very important. How can the work be mainstreamed in policy terms, rather than whither in academic space?*

- *The Programme findings should also be made known to others who are active in social affairs. Information must be pulled together in a succinct form.*

- *Perhaps it would be best to pick a couple of potential winners. Careful thought is needed for this. A small working group of stakeholders might be the way to do this.*

- *Ways to measure the impact of the Programme must be found.*

RESEARCHER VIEWS

- *Peace and stability is a long journey. Commitment to a long term process is necessary. Sustaining the work in this area is critically important and a proactive approach is necessary. Governments could define new projects.*

- *Specific research policies are required; the choice of research topic is critical; politicians might make important contributions to the choice of research questions.*

- *Research is always necessary to understand the impact of legislation (e.g. the Good Friday Agreement) and as such social conditions change new research will always be necessary.*

- *The concept of cross-border cooperation may be too broad. Cooperation can be economic, political, voluntary etc. It is necessary to be specific about the objectives of any research. However, it is also true that research can be too specialised, so setting the context is important.*

- *Academics should work in the community more often. Some areas of the border may be suffering from research fatigue so care is necessary in making research decisions.*

- *There is a need for greater cooperation between institutions and universities.*

- *Inter-institutional cooperation is unusual; we need an institutional framework to make it happen; policy influencers must be co-opted. The HEA is critical to this.*
- *Specific support is needed to make things happen; we have to keep evolving to improve the model.*

- *The private business sector is not usually interested in social research as such. There is*

no history of corporate responsibility in this area. However business community gains from peace and stability so efforts might be made to get them more involved.

- *The projects have produced many policy-related outcomes but what happens next is a matter for civil society.*

- *Dissemination of information to communities is very important and, indeed, is a mandatory part of the Programme. However, dissemination is time (and energy) consuming and sufficient time must be allowed for the process.*

- *Websites are important tools for dissemination; the information can be delivered to schools etc.*

- *There is some conflict between public dissemination and academic processes. There are no academic rewards for public dissemination and universities don't encourage it. It is not a process that is recognised by the UK Inspectorate System (RIS).*

- *One or two activities a year would sustain a project. This could be done at modest cost by funding postgraduate inputs.*

- *A combined group of stakeholders should address the relevant and influential government bodies such as Oireachtas Committees and equivalents in Northern Ireland.*

A VALUABLE AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE

To summarise the above views, it can be stated that the Programme was a rewarding experience for those academics involved. Lead Investigators variously described the *experience with terms such as exciting, stimulating, politically relevant, innovative, constructive, satisfying, busy, successful and challenging*.

It is felt by all stakeholders that future progress depends on appropriate political support. Funding is critical, as is a strategic framework. A framework is necessary because of the variety of constituencies involved, policy makers, education, state agencies, voluntary sector, government, North–South bodies etc.

Research is necessary to the understanding of conflict and other social issues. Understanding requires theories and models and only research can generate such theories and models in a reliable way.

Research topics with high social and economic impact must be carefully chosen. Political representatives have a role to play in choosing appropriate research areas. In addition, the necessary time must be allowed to produce real outcomes.

The involvement of the community is necessary in a democratic society. To ensure that communities are engaged they must also be provided with appropriate supports since they currently lack the capacity for sustained involvement.

All stakeholders agreed that the programme should mark a beginning rather than an end for cross-border co-operation in research and education contributing to peace and reconciliation.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Information on the *Cross-Border Programme for Research and Education contributing to Peace and Reconciliation* can be found at ***www.hea.ie/research*** under the sub-navigation North South Programmes.

The presentations given at the Showcase Event, Dundalk and the Close Out Conference, Armagh are also available here as well as links to the individual project sites.

Information on the project can be found on the project sites as follows.

Mapping frontiers, plotting pathways: routes to north-south cooperation in a divided island (UCD/QUB):
www.mappingfrontiers.ie

Equality and Social Inclusion: A Framework for Peace and Stability (QUB/UCD/UU):
www.qub.ac.uk/heae

E-Consultation: Evaluating appropriate technologies and processes for citizens' participation in public policy (QUB/NUIM/LKIT):
www.e-consultation.org

Intergenerational Transmission and Ethno-National Identity In the Border Area (ITENIBA) (UCD/QUB):
www.ucd.ie/euiteniba

Virtual Research Centre for Point-of-Care Technology - POC Sensors Ireland (DCU/UUJ/Royal Victoria Hospital):
www.engineering.ulster.ac.uk/nri/poc.html

The **Centre for Cross Border Studies** maintains a reference database of all cross-border initiatives and programmes. It can be accessed at *www.crossborder.ie*

CONFERENCE REPORT

Public Conference/Showcase Event
June 2005, Dundalk, Ireland

Appendix 1

CROSS BORDER
PROGRAMME
FOR RESEARCH
AND EDUCATION
CONTRIBUTING
TO PEACE AND
RECONCILIATION

CONFERENCE AGENDA

08.30   **Registration**

09.30   **Introduction**
Mr. Michael Kelly, Chairman HEA

Conference Overview
Dr. John Bowman, Conference Chairperson

09.45   **Guest Speakers**
Mr. Jim McCusker, Ms Inez McCormack

10:35   **Overview of the Cross Border Programme and its Constituent Projects**
Dr. John Bowman and Project Leaders

11.15   **Coffee & Exhibition**

11.45   **Five Parallel Project Sessions, Individual Project Presentations and Discussions**

- E-Consultation: Evaluating appropriate technologies and processes for citizens' participation in public policy

- Equality and Social Inclusion: A Framework for peace and stability

- Intergenerational transmission and ethno-national identity in the border area

- Mapping frontiers, plotting pathways: routes to north-south cooperation in a divided island

- Virtual Research Centre for Point-of-Care Technology: POC-Sensors

12:45   **Lunch & Exhibition**

14:15   **Introduction to Afternoon Session**
Dr. John Bowman and workshop facilitators

14:20   **Three Parallel Workshops**

- Cross-border structures for collaboration in research and Education
Facilitated by: Ms Deirdre Garvey, The Wheel and Mr. Gordon McCullough, NICVA.

- Improving cross-border capabilities to compete in global research
Facilitated by: Mr. Dermot O'Doherty, InterTradeIreland

- Understanding the causes of community conflict
Facilitated by: Mr. Peter O'Neill, NI Human Rights Commission

16.00   **Feedback from Workshops**
Chaired by Dr. John Bowman joined by workshop facilitators

16.30   **Closing of Conference**

INTRODUCTION

A key component of the Cross-Border Programme is the public dissemination of information. Accordingly, mid-way through the programme, a ***Showcase Event***, hosted by the Higher Education Authority, took place on June 2nd 2005 at the Fairways Hotel and Conference Centre, Dundalk, Co. Louth. The event featured guest speakers, workshops and an exhibition. Invitations were issued to members of the research community, media groups, community and voluntary groups North and South, policy makers, NGOs and cross-border charities. Some 130 participants attended on the day.
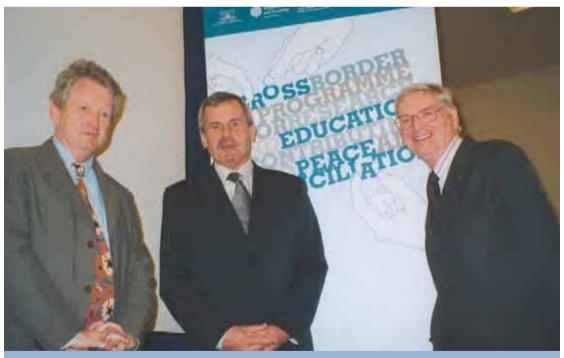
The Conference was opened by the Chairman of the Higher Education Authority **Michael Kelly**, who welcomed all participants and outlined the objectives.
'The objective of the day is audience participation and lively debate. This research and education programme is people-focused. If the outcomes of the research are to have any impact, the researchers must engage with the wider community to make their findings known and to make a real difference.'

Dr. John Bowman, the conference Chair, delivered an introductory overview. He identified the three programme objectives, which are:

• Understanding the causes of community conflict
• Developing cross-border structures for collaboration in research and education
• Improving cross-border capabilities to compete in global research

He also presented information on the background to the Peace II Initiative, the nature of the five funded projects and their research, and on other institutions involved.

Dr. John Bowman, Mr. Michael Kelly, HEA, Mr. Jim McCusker (Peace II Monitoring Committee)

Mr. Jim McCusker, previously General Secretary of Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance, spoke on the topic of Parallel Peace Projects. As a trade union official and member of the Executive Council of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), Jim McCusker was active in the development of equal opportunities.

Ms Inez McCormack, Northern Ireland Regional Secretary of UNISON, spoke on the topic of equality on the island of Ireland. As a founding member of Northern Ireland's first Equal Opportunities Commission and Fair Employment Agency, and her roles Deputy Chairperson on the Equality Commission and member of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, Inez is active in the development of equality rights.

Dr. Eucharia Meehan, HEA and Ms. Inez McCormack, North/South Health Services Partnership.

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT SESSIONS

This section presents an outline of the five project presentations. It contains summary information on:

- The lead researchers involved in each project
- The presenters
- The presentation material
- The observation of participants following the presentations

I E-CONSULTATION: EVALUATING APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESSES FOR CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY

RESEARCH LED BY: Dr. David Newman, QUB; Dr. Honor Fagan, NUI Maynooth; Mr. Paul McCusker, Letterkenny IT.

PRESENTED BY: Dr. David Newman, QUB; Dr. G. Honor Fagan, NUI Maynooth; Mr. Paul McCusker, Letterkenny IT.

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

The project looks at how electronic communication, computing technologies and the internet can assist human consultation, negotiation and mediation processes. The researchers set out to:

- Turn e-consultation from an experimental idea to a practical option
- Identify the social context and political implications of forms of consultation
- Identify appropriate e-consultation technologies and processes
- Advise, help, study and evaluate at least two electronic consultation exercises
- Disseminate the results through an online e-consultation guide and training workshops

A survey questionnaire was used to gather opinions and views on the consultation process. Currently the most commonly-used consultation techniques are traditional, involving consultation documents, public meetings, service satisfaction surveys and co-option to committees.

The researchers found that there is a need for an agreed definition of what consultation

actually is, and what it is intended to achieve. Different organisations have different motives for conducting a consultation with the public.

At the next stage, the project will look at what technologies and processes work best for consultations.

THE PRESENTATION SLIDES CAN BE SEEN AT WWW.HEA.IE

OBSERVATIONS BY PARTICIPANTS

- Participants felt that the presentation was a good starting point, and appreciated the demonstrations. It was stated that the project should build on the existing structures such as community labs etc. It is also important that any electronic model should deploy all the best practices in terms of consultation. While e-consultation may use technology in a novel way, care must be taken that the correct approach to the consultation (bias sample, representativeness of community etc.) be factored into equation.

- If this technology is to be used, it is important that the consultation around it takes place at an appropriate stage, and not when the decision has actually been already taken.

- Participants stressed the critical importance of the project feeding into the wider policy domain. It must not be perceived as dealing with 'gadgetry'. E-consultation has a role in the development of policy, but this must be clearly established.

- The deployment of e-consultation runs the risk of further alienating those already marginalised and not in a position to use technology. It would also be useful if 'space' could be found to canvass children's views.

II EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: A FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE AND STABILITY

RESEARCH LED BY: Prof. Eithne McLaughlin, QUB; Prof. Kathleen Lynch, UCD; Prof. Paddy Hillyard, QUB/UU.

PRESENTED BY: Prof Eithne McLaughlin, QUB and Prof Kathleen Lynch, UCD

PRESENTATION SUMMARY
This project aims to develop a common framework which can used to promote equality, social inclusion, social justice and human rights in both jurisdictions. The presenters outlined how they set out to apply the best current knowledge on equality to issues of peace building and social politics in Ireland. In this way, a better public understanding of equality issues would be developed. In the course of the work, the researchers communicated with politicians and community members.

Four types of inequality are identified:
- Economic
- Socio-cultural
- Political
- Affective/Emotional

To date, the project has helped to increase awareness that equality makes a positive contribution to social development, social cohesion and conflict-resolution. People also realise that equality is not just a matter of law and that Ireland is a society of high inequality in international terms. They are also aware of the high economic and political costs of inequality.

The project will also produce recommendations for policy makers on how to measure equality and social inclusion. Equality is strongly linked to issues of peace and reconciliation and the researchers are attempting to understand these links.

THE PRESENTATION SLIDES CAN BE SEEN AT WWW.HEA.IE

OBSERVATIONS BY PARTICIPANTS

- Participants from the South of Ireland generally commented positively on Section 75, otherwise known as Statutory Equality Duty of the Northern Ireland Act. It was felt this legislation was more progressive than legislation in the South and that government in the South should introduce legislation of a similar nature.

- Northern participants also noted that Section 75 looked good on paper, but had not really delivered to date. It had served to place some groups on the policy agenda but, unfortunately, it was being interpreted as legislation to create a level playing field rather than legislation to support those experiencing particular disadvantages.

- It was suggested that, due to the difficulties experienced around actually impacting on policy, there might be engagement with the Community Platform in the South of Ireland.

- Many comments were made about a growing, global, neo-liberal political policy which was identified as impacting on many sectors the North and South. It was felt that ordinary people and communities needed to engage in local actions to resist the move toward increasing privatisation and the reduction of provision in relation to health and education services.

III INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION AND ETHNO-NATIONAL IDENTITY IN THE BORDER AREA

RESEARCH LED BY: Dr. Jennifer Todd, UCD and Dr. Orla Muldoon, QUB

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Jennifer Todd, UCD and Dr. Orla Muldoon, QUB

PRESENTATION SUMMARY
The presenters outlined the objective of this project, which is to establish how identities are transmitted across generations within the family and what social conditions affect this. The research involved specialists from several areas including social psychology; political science; anthropology and sociology. In the course of their work, the researchers are engaging with up to three generations of families both North and South of the border. The overall process involved:

- Over 100 interviews (family-centred, locality-centred, mixed marriages)
- Over three months participant observation
- Six schools and 261 pupils in an essay-writing study
- Measures of identity preference etc.
- Workshops and conferences

The findings of the project to date were then summarised. These findings verify that the impact of the border is complex. A key impact is the perception of danger that people experience. The economic impact is also clear. However, the border appears to have little impact on national identity. There are various theories which attempt to explain how identity is generated. Political, religious, social and family influences all play a part.

THE PRESENTATION SLIDES CAN BE SEEN AT WWW.HEA.IE

OBSERVATIONS BY PARTICIPANTS

- Participants were concerned as to how the information from the project would feed into the development of the community in the future; what will be happening ten years from now?

- The question was posed as to whether there is any relationship between ethno-national identity and class/socio-economic background? The example of disadvantaged children was quoted. Such children can identify themselves as being from a particular area or locality or, alternatively, perceive themselves in financial terms i.e. 'we don't have a car'.

- There was some debate around the concept of a broader identity beyond the nationally defined identity—for example, a world identity based on rights etc.

- A question was raised about the impact of the EMU funding initiative. Has it made any difference?

IV MAPPING FRONTIERS, PLOTTING PATHWAYS: ROUTES TO NORTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION IN A DIVIDED ISLAND

RESEARCH LED BY: Prof. John Coakley, UCD and Prof. Elizabeth Meehan, QUB

PRESENTED BY: Prof. Coakley and members of the teams from Belfast and Dublin

PRESENTATION SUMMARY
This project studies the changing nature of the Irish border as a social divide and looks at new routes for promoting cross-border contact, co-operation and mutual understanding. The presenters outlined three major themes:

- The nature of the border
- The impact of the border, past and present (How is the border experienced and perceived? Is it a barrier, bridge, resource or symbol?)
- Tackling the issue of the border

The researchers analysed the border from a comparative international perspective, as well as examining its evolution since 1921. In the course of the work a major conference was held which was attended by academics, civil servants, journalists and NGO representatives.

To date, the project has found much productive cooperation across the border in terms of trade, tourism, culture and management of natural resources. However, there has been some lack of political direction or vision (especially while devolution was suspended). This affected certain areas of cooperation such as health.

The researchers intend to hold additional seminars to look at the impact of the border on economic issues such as barriers to trade, employment patterns and infrastructure.

OBSERVATIONS BY PARTICIPANTS

- It was pointed out that the public sector in the North accounted for almost 40% of GDP, but the figure in the South is closer to 20%. Does this factor influence cross-border co-operation?

- Migrant workers are vital for the Southern economy; they encounter few problems there. However, in the North, a number of attacks have been reported.

- It was suggested that the allocation of EU 'peace money' mirrored society in general, whereby the rich become richer and the poor poorer.

- The question 'who benefits from EU funding' needs to be posed. However, it is a fact that EU peace funding is a very small percentage of GDP.

- It was stated that there has been a lack of political will for all-Ireland training initiatives, as indicated by the existence of separate NGOs and regulatory authorities North and South.

- It was confirmed that, under the Good Friday Agreement, a Working Party has been established to examine consistency in the teacher-training process.

- It was noted that people's affinity with frontiers and borders is encouraged by the county structure, for example Gaelic games and TV channels. A recent study day at Clones indicated that people were very fond of boundaries or borders. Where no obvious boundaries exist, artificial ones can be created in the mind and areas of minor difference can be accentuated, e.g. hedgerows in Co. Cavan being different to those in Monaghan.

V VIRTUAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR POINT-OF-CARE TECHNOLOGY: POC-SENSORS

RESEARCH LED BY: Prof. Brian MacCraith, DCU and Dr. Eric McAdams, UU in collaboration with Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

PRESENTED BY: Brian MacCraith, DCU

PRESENTATION SUMMARY
The objective of this project is to promote cross-border scientific collaboration by addressing critical needs in healthcare. The researchers are developing Point of Care devices that can be used by individuals to carry out early diagnoses without necessarily attending a clinic or hospital.

The presenters described a number of devices that will be useful across a range of critical health areas such as:

- Cardiovascular
- Cancer
- Obesity
- Diabetes

The effect of the devices will be revolutionary. They can be used in the home to monitor health and to provide early warning of life-threatening events. Diagnostic results can be got in less than two minutes. Early medical intervention can then be sought. The result will be an increase in life-expectancy and a large reduction in healthcare costs.

In addition, the work presents great potential for economic and industrial cross-border cooperation. Healthcare is a global issue and the work of the researchers has attracted international attention. Ireland now has the opportunity to become the centre of excellence in medical diagnostics technologies in the 21st century.

THE PRESENTATION SLIDES CAN BE SEEN AT WWW.HEA.IE

OBSERVATIONS BY PARTICIPANTS

Discussion centred around two areas – the technical dimensions of the project and the potential impacts of the research.

Technical dimensions

- There was discussion on the telemetry component of the invention, the intellectual property surrounding this dimension and its precise benefits.

- Clarification was sought on the potential applications of the technology, including the detection of viruses or pathogens. It was stated that some preliminary work is being conducted in this area by a project at DCU.

- It was suggested that the applicability of this technology in the agri-food sector be explored. Researchers stated that they are currently involved in projects focusing on such applications.

- A query was raised as to the differentiation of the work in this project and similar research in the US. It was stated that the work at DCU had been highly rated by US authorities.

Impact of research

- There was discussion about the time to market for the sensors developed in the course of the project. It was stated that it would be a number of years for fully fledged development, but that manifestations of the technology should be on the market in three years.

- The question was raised as to how the benefits of the project would be communicated to the appropriate stakeholders, particularly those in the border counties. Researchers stated that they are engaged in a proactive technology education programme for clinicians and ongoing dialogue with the IDA and potential partner companies.

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

Three parallel workshops were conducted. Each of the workshops discussed a key programme objective in detail. Post this discussion, two questions on programme approaches and policies were discussed. The themes were as follows.

WORKSHOP 1: CROSS-BORDER STRUCTURES FOR COLLABORATION IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

What framework might be put in place to further sustainable cross-border development in research and education?

WORKSHOP 2: CROSS-BORDER CAPABILITIES TO COMPETE IN GLOBAL RESEARCH

What would be happening cross-border if Ireland had world class competitive capability in research; what advances need to be made to better the current situation?

WORKSHOP 3: UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSES OF COMMUNITY CONFLICT

How can higher education research contribute to an understanding of the identities and perspectives of others? How can higher education assist this process?

The following additional questions were addressed by each workshop:

From your knowledge of elements of the Cross-Border Programme and from what you have heard today, comment on approaches being made by the Programme. What additional approaches would you value from the research being conducted?

The Programme will result in many valuable research findings. How can these be used to assist the development of progressive policies?

Mr. Martin Fullerton (Department for Employment and Learning), Ms. Hanna Perrin (The Wheel), Ms. Sorcha Carthy (HEA) and Mr. Brendan Kane (NICVA) at the Close out conference exhibition in Armagh, April 2006.

Dundalk Breakout Session

OBSERVATIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS AT WORKSHOPS AND THE PLENARY SESSION

The issues and topics raised and commented on by participants at the Workshops and the subsequent Plenary Session are summarised below under broad theme headings.

THEME: STRUCTURES, CAPABILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE COLLABORATION IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

- A dedicated stream of funding is needed to encourage cross-border collaboration.

- Sustainability must be addressed – employment opportunities must exist for the researchers.

- The benefits of collaboration also allow for more efficient pooling of resources and also maximise the use of library facilities.

- Consideration needs to be given to the different tax regimes and different processes for handling issues such as overheads, assessment procedures and the role of publications.

- There is a need to maintain and extend the linkages being built.

- The findings of the five projects must be publicised throughout the decision making process.

THEME: CONTRIBUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Higher education can promote better understanding of identities and the perspectives of the community.

- These projects, and the collaboration involved, can act as an 'International Flagship'.

- Research can be used for lobbying and to create policy change.

- Research can challenge some assumptions, especially regarding identity and the language associated with such issues.

- Higher education is valuable, as it has an international and theoretical perspective, as well as valuable resources.

- Higher education can keep the momentum going in periods of 'Peace Process fatigue'.

- Research provides the opportunity for inter-group student contact.

THEME: OPTIMISING RESULTS OF THE CROSS-BORDER PROGRAMME

Research

- There is a need to think about how research can contribute to a solution. One aspect is to understand a problem but there is a greater need to offer a solution.

- Researchers should look at different countries and different models.

- The projects should assimilate findings from other research projects.

- There is a small community of researchers in Ireland so there is a need to engage in research on a national 32 counties and international basis.

- Motivation for research is important; research needs to be centred on policy-based work.

- The lack of postgraduate mobility between North and South is critical and should be researched; student mix in higher education is very important.

Community involvement

- The community perspective on research needs may be quite different from that of the university.

- It is important to clarify the role of higher education in the community and vice versa.

- There is a need for a shift from the university using the community for research to the community using the university for the research purposes that they identify.

- Involvement of communities and modes of engagement with communities are important factors in a research initiative.

- Research needs to report to real people on the ground and to communities.

- Greater communication is needed particularly with the voluntary sector.

- Academics should be mindful of consultation fatigue.

Identity, conflict and peripherality
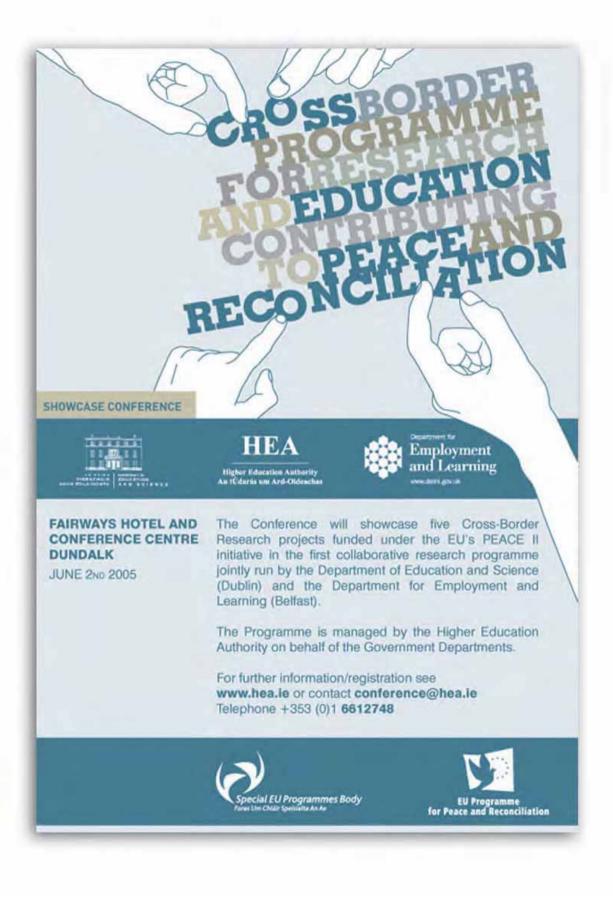
- There is the need to identify the key issues that create peripherality in the border area.

- The issue isn't so much to understand identities and perspectives of others as to:

  - Explain (i.e. identify mechanisms) by which identities and perspectives come into conflict
  - Show what combinations and permutations of mechanisms lead to intractable conflicts, and
  - What interventions are necessary or useful (comparatively) to interrupt/ loosen theses mechanisms

- Mobility would give each community a better understanding of identities and perspectives. Lessons behind 'lack of mobility' need to be researched.

Sustainability and dissemination of information

- There is a need to keep the programme going and publicise it well.

- The programme to date has been very useful but it now needs to be mainstreamed.

- This work should be built into cross-border establishments/bodies.

- Research should identify where interventions work and don't work to ascertain whether a new policy direction is worthwhile or not.

- There is a need to look at how the business sector can support this initiative.

- There is a need to disseminate the results of research in a more public way.

- How research is written is important; this influences how the information can be used 'on the ground'.

Dundalk Plenary Session

CONFERENCE REPORT

Close-Out Event, April 2006
Armagh, Northern Ireland

Appendix 2

CROSS BORDER
FOR RESEARCH
AND EDUCATION
CONTRIBUTING
TO PEACE
RECONCILIATION

09.45   **Registration and Exhibition**

10.30   **Introduction and Conference Overview**
                   Mr. Michael Kelly, Chairman HEA

10.40   **Conference Address**
                   Mr. Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, SEUPB

10.50   **Ministerial Addresses**
                   Minister Síle de Valera, Minister of State at the Department of Education and
                   Science (with special responsibility for Adult Education, Youth Affairs and
                   Educational Disadvantage), Republic of Ireland

                   Mrs. Catherine Bell, Deputy Secretary, Department of Employment and
                   Learning, Northern Ireland

                   Project Sessions

11.15   **Intergenerational Transmission and Ethno-National Identity in the
                   Border Area**
                   Respondent: Mr. Tony Kennedy, Chief Executive, Co-operation Ireland

11.35   **Equality and Social Inclusion: A Framework for Peace and Stability**
                   Respondent: Mr. Brian Symington, Director, Royal National Institute for the
                   Deaf, Northern Ireland

11.55   **Mapping frontiers, plotting pathways: routes to north-south
                   cooperation in a divided island**
                   Respondent: Dr. Peter Smyth, Former Joint Secretary, North-South
                   Ministerial Council

12.15   **Lunch**

13.15   **E-Consultation: Evaluating appropriate technologies and processes for
                   citizens' participation in public policy**
                   Respondent: Mr. Mr. Barney McLaughlin, Donegal County Council

13.35   **Virtual Research Centre for Point-of-Care Technology: POC-Sensors**
                   Respondent: Professor Dermot Kenny, RCSI and Beaumont Hospital

14.00   **Stakeholder Panel Discussion and Q &A Session**

15.00   **Close of Conference**

INTRODUCTION

At the conclusion of the **Cross-Border Programme**, a Close-Out Event was held in April 2006 at the Armagh City Hotel. The event featured guest speakers, presentations from principal investigators and researchers associated with the five projects, inputs from respondents representing the community, and an exhibition. Invitations were issued to members of the research community, media groups, community and voluntary groups north and south of the border, policy makers, NGOs and cross-border charities. Some 90 participants attended the event.

The Conference was opened by the Chairman of the Higher Education Authority **Michael Kelly**, who welcomed all participants and outlined the day's objectives.

Today's event provides us with an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved over the past two years, and to consider how we might extract maximum value from the work that has been done. Can we spread the benefits more widely in the border counties or more generally, for example. We will also consider what lessons we might take from the experience of these projects, that could be applied to the design of a future programme of cross-border research and education.

Mr. Kelly then introduced Mr. Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, SEUPB, Síle de Valera Minister of State, Department of Education and Science, Republic of Ireland and Catherine Bell, Deputy Secretary, Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland.

ADDRESS BY PAT COLGAN (Abridged)

This Project is one of a large number of University-based projects that have been funded to date through the PEACE II and INTERREG Programmes.

These projects have in common the stated aims of promoting cross-border cooperation, addressing the legacy of the conflict, and helping communities to take advantage of the opportunities arising from peace to promote a stable and peaceful society. The promotion of reconciliation and mutual understanding has been at the heart of all of these projects.

I am reluctant to think that today's event really is the closure of all that has been achieved so far. Today may be the end of this project but I believe that it is the end of the beginning of a new era, in which cross-border co-operation and partnership is considered the norm for the benefit of everyone involved.

In the months ahead we will be engaged in intensive consultation with all relevant stakeholders to identify the strategic priorities for development over the seven years of the new EU Programming Period 2007–2013.

The overall priorities that we have set for ourselves include consolidating the progress that has been made in building peace and reconciliation, continuing to promote cross-border cooperation in a wide range of fields, and contributing to the cohesion and sustainability of communities in our targeted geographic areas.

In tackling this challenge the contribution of the higher-education sector is critical and will require the forging of partnerships with public and private sector interests in a triumvirate of influence and cooperation.

We in the SEUPB look forward to playing our role in facilitating the emerging of these three way partnerships and working with you towards the achievement of our objectives.

ADDRESS BY SÍLE DE VALERA (Abridged)

Almost two years ago I had the pleasure of launching the Cross-Border Programme for Research and Education contributing to Peace and Reconciliation in the Slieve Russell Hotel. I am equally delighted today to be with you to hear of the many interesting outcomes that have been achieved thanks to the expertise and energies of researchers on both sides of the border.

I congratulate all concerned and commend the Higher Education Authority for the way it has managed the Programme on behalf of the two departments.

The use of websites is impressive and again one cannot understate the importance of sharing this vital information as widely as possible. Higher education institutions must endeavour at all times to explain and inform the public about the work that they are engaged in.

Education and research must be at the fore wherever we seek to overcome barriers and obstacles, most particularly in this field of peace and reconciliation. By continuing to explore new avenues of thinking and new strategies of planning, the reputation of our education system is enhanced among the citizens of the island and the bigger prizes of peace and reconciliation become ever more attainable.

ADDRESS BY CATHERINE BELL (Abridged)

This unique programme has engaged two major government departments on the island, as well as more than eight third-level institutions and other agencies, North and South, in a collaborative cross-border effort. As such, it has created a new community of people and institutions dedicated to professional and research-based investigation and validation of new mechanisms to promote peace and reconciliation.

Ms Sile de Valera T.D., Minister of State, Department of Education and Science, Mr. Pat Colgan, SEUPB, Mrs. Catherine Bell, Deputy Secretary, Department for Employment and Learning.

The importance of bilateral collaboration between both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland cannot be over-estimated. Furthermore, I believe bringing the research system of the two parts of the island more closely together in collaborative ventures has helped to create a critical mass which can only strengthen the research infrastructure

Indeed, the broader internationalisation of research activities is something which is becoming an increasingly important tenet of policy development within Northern Ireland. On the economic development side, it is a key component of the Regional Innovation Strategy and Economic Vision.

I have no doubt that this programme will act as a catalyst for future areas of collaboration in the field of research between the North and the South, and also in the international arena.

Again, I pay tribute to the researchers who are here today for the work they are doing which, I believe, will ultimately benefit us all.

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

This section presents an outline of the five project presentations. It contains summary information on:

- The lead researchers involved in each project
- The presenters
- The presentation material
- The observation of participants during the panel discussion which took place after the presentations had been delivered

E-CONSULTATION: EVALUATING APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES AND PROCESSES FOR CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC POLICY

RESEARCH LED BY: Dr. David Newman, QUB; Dr. Honor Fagan, NUI Maynooth; Mr. Paul McCusker, Letterkenny IT.

PRESENTED BY: Dr. David Newman, QUB

RESPONDENT: Barney McLaughlin, Donegal County Council

PRESENTATION SUMMARY
The project looks at how electronic communication, computing technologies and the internet can assist human consultation, negotiation and mediation processes. The presentation provided an update to the position stated at the Dundalk conference. At that stage, the researchers had discovered that most consultations followed traditional routes which are socially exclusive and time-consuming. Following this, they needed to identify acceptable consultation technologies and find out how to integrate these technologies into consultation processes.

In pursuit of these objectives six technology demonstrations and four e-consultation trials were held. The Wheel, Waterways Ireland and Advice NI were involved in these trials.

The researchers found that technological issues are easy to resolve but the people and process issues are more difficult. The NESC and the Oireachtas have now sought advice

HEA Research Programmes, Ms Sheena Duffy,
Dr. Eucharia Meehan, Ms Louise Sherry,
Ms Sorcha Carthy, Ms Fiona Davis, Dr. Abigail Chantler.

Mr. Andy Pollack , Center for Cross Border Studies with
delegate at Armagh Exhibition.

from the team. The researchers are also heavily involved in European e-consultation discussions. An e-consultation guide is being prepared and will be available at www.e-consultation.org

THE PRESENTATION SLIDES CAN BE SEEN AT WWW.HEA.IE

RESPONDENT'S INPUT

'E-consultation is using technology in a user-friendly way, trying to engage the community so that they see technology as a gateway, rather than a barrier, to consultation. Engaging the right people in the process is a key element.

Trying to merge new technology with traditional practices resulted in conflicting outcomes, and identified the need for a different mind-set in employing technology. E-consultation needs to be designed from first principles; rather than being a process whereby a result is sought from the consultation, it should premised on the needs of the participant. It is necessary to develop long-term trust – something that has not been done in the past.

The research team are now working with Donegal County Council to implement pilot e-consultation portals in five of the community fora in County Donegal.

The public perception is that, when somebody asks them to come along to a consultation it is a tick box process. We'll get a crowd of people into the room, we'll tick the box, we sit down and talk to them, listen to what they say, we go out of the room and we can present the paper and say "oh yes we had a public consultation". But the vast majority of the public do not feel that their views are heard.

The research centred on building trust and letting technology promote communication without imposing it. Through technology you can open channels, chat rooms, discussion fora and on-line services.

To finish off then, any communication which establishes trust helps to ensure better and more effective decision-making. This project established that technology itself is a legitimate tool for accomplishing this.'

EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: A FRAMEWORK FOR PEACE AND STABILITY

RESEARCH LED BY: Prof. Eithne McLaughlin, QUB; Prof. Kathleen Lynch, UCD; Prof. Paddy Hillyard, QUB/UU.

PRESENTED BY: Prof. Eithne McLaughlin, QUB and Prof. Kathleen Lynch, UCD.

RESPONDENT: Mr. Brian Symington, Director, Royal National Institute for the Deaf, Northern Ireland

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

This project aims to develop a common framework to promote equality, social inclusion, social justice and human rights on both sides of the border. The presenters reiterated the four strand equality model shown at the Dundalk conference – *economic, socio-cultural, political and affective*. Since the conference the researchers have undertaken twenty 'care studies', ten of which involve children. The cases represent diverse social class, age, gender, marital and family status, ethnicity, disability and sexuality.

The researches conclude that, at present, the state and the market are *'free-riders on (mostly womens') unpaid care labour'*.

A description of the application and scoring of the Northern Ireland Standard of Living Index (NILSI) was also delivered.

There is now a network of 78 UCD staff committed to research on global justice. The team has been granted a Marie Curie award to develop the intellectual basis for an *Egalitarian and Socially Inclusive Europe* (ESIE). In addition, a partnership has been developed with six European Universities working in equality.

THE PRESENTATION SLIDES CAN BE SEEN AT WWW.HEA.IE

RESPONDENT'S INPUT

'I have been most impressed by what the project has achieved. The conference last year brought care as an equality issue to my attention for the first time.

An important dimension of the project has been the development of equality scholarship. I believe that the approach the researchers have taken has challenged the language, definition and perception of disability, equality of opportunity, inclusion, and indeed, normality. The emphasis on the social model that is looking at ability rather than disability is welcome too, and the work has led to more clarity.
The output of this project will help to inform and influence policy makers and providers and establish a framework for collaboration.

The project has increased the awareness that equality is not reducible to equality law. It has demonstrated a need for cultural change and acceptance, and an appreciation of diversity. Creating partnership with research has been a real benefit, bringing together community, statutory, and voluntary sectors and academia in a learning and knowledge collaboration.

There is a need to share and apply the learning. It should be free and accessible to all including political parties, policy makers, government departments, researchers, and campaigners, and it is crucial that this material is not lost.
I think one of the other things is that this project has taken sectarianism out of the situation and the focus of the work has been on social justice and human rights agenda and this is the right approach.'

INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION AND ETHNO-NATIONAL IDENTITY IN THE BORDER AREA

RESEARCH LED BY: Dr. Jennifer Todd, UCD and Dr. Orla Muldoon, QUB

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Jennifer Todd, UCD and Dr. Orla Muldoon, QUB

RESPONDENT: Tony Kennedy, Chief Executive, Cooperation Ireland

PRESENTATION SUMMARY
This project set out to establish how identities are transmitted across generations within the family and what social conditions affect this. The presenters outlined the progress made since the Dundalk conference.

Border workshops were held at Ballymascanlon and Castleblayney. Three major school studies were conducted which involved sixteen schools and 1,211 adolescents and their parents.

The intergenerational aspect involved forty families. A total of 128 individuals from the North and South were interviewed. There were also many contacts with churches, organisations and community groups. The project was the subject of a media coverage and a BBC Radio 4 documentary.

In addition, the project has received wide international recognition. The research has been reported in scholarly journals and many top academics have attended project conferences and workshops.

The project has established that identity change is real but it is uncommon. Injustice and violence polarise identities. Tolerance needs to be actively encouraged across communities.

THE PRESENTATION SLIDES CAN BE SEEN AT WWW.HEA.IE

RESPONDENT'S INPUT
'Responding on the issues most relevant to Cooperation Ireland, I will make four points:

There is an idealistic view that young people are purer than the rest of us. Young people remain as attached to their nationalistic identity as any other group. Hope in 'young people' seems to survive generations without ever being dealt with. There is a very important lesson to be drawn from this.

People in the Republic define a border which excludes Northern Protestants threatened by the moral and social expansiveness of the Republic, and also Northern Catholics who do not so civilly affirm their Irishness. That covers most people in Northern Ireland, so there is a real difficulty.

It is very easy for people to affirm their identities in opposition. It can happen very quickly and easily on the basis of personal or family experience and takes a long time to come back again. I argue strongly that we need a proper coherent approach in working at this.

We need to link community, academics and government. Peace III will be smaller; we need to know what works and how priorities can be achieved. The governments need to be pushed to develop a clear policy framework. Can we persuade the administrations, who today praised this marvellous programme, to at some stage put some money into this marvellous, and to date EU-funded, programme?'

Armagh Exibition

MAPPING FRONTIERS, PLOTTING PATHWAYS: ROUTES TO NORTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION IN A DIVIDED ISLAND

RESEARCH LED BY: Prof. John Coakley, UCD and Prof. Elizabeth Meehan, QUB

PRESENTED BY: Prof. Liam O'Dowd, QUB

RESPONDENT: Peter Smyth, Former Joint Secretary, North–South Ministerial Council

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

The presentation outlined the overall objectives of the project which were to map the effects of the border and assess its impact as a barrier, bridge, symbol, source of cost or benefit. The researchers also wished to analyse the extent to which institutional activity had developed over time.

The methods used were described as historical, comparative and interdisciplinary. A Ph.D. project on the Boundary Commission was undertaken. The border was also compared to other 20th-century partitions.

Two major conferences were conducted in Armagh and Dublin. The researchers engaged with a wide range of influencers including the Taoiseach and members of both parliaments. Local people in border counties were involved in study groups. Many discussion papers and working papers have been published.

The project illustrates that the border has developed in ways that were not originally intended. The border must now be seen as a process rather than a historical event. The project identifies threats to cross-border collaboration and the absence of a strategic framework for addressing these issues.

THE PRESENTATION SLIDES CAN BE SEEN AT WWW.HEA.IE

RESPONDENT'S INPUT

'In addition to this project there are many other initiatives relating to cross-border collaboration. There is an enormous amount of potential good will and cooperation but there seems to be an absence of strategic vision. There is not a synthetic approach to collaborative initiatives or a broader over-view of emergent priorities.

Obviously there is a role for business the private sector, the voluntary sector, the community sector and for politicians. I do think politic involvement is crucial. There are complications and drawbacks to ministerial participation but I have to say I don't see any way that we can avoid bringing them in.

Sustainability is important but the gradual diminution of EU funding calls into question the availability of alternative sources. It has to be state funding if we are to preserve cooperation, even at this level. How do we get that funding? A business plan, in which we identify the question to which enhanced cooperation is the answer, is required.

I look forward to seeing the results of the Mapping Frontiers project. I know that work is already taking place on a number of publications and I think it will be enormously helpful when we see that. I think we are all agreed that the amount of work that has gone into this cannot be wasted.'

VIRTUAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR POINT-OF-CARE TECHNOLOGY: POC-SENSORS

RESEARCH LED BY: Prof. Brian MacCraith, DCU and Dr. Eric McAdams, UU, in collaboration with Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

PRESENTED BY: Prof. Brian MacCraith and Prof. Jim McLaughlin

RESPONDENT: Dr. Dermot Kenny, RSCI and Beaumont Hospital

PRESENTATION SUMMARY
The objective of this project was to develop point-of-care medical diagnostic tools using cross-border scientific expertise. The presenters stated that the project is highly technical in nature. The term point-of-care was explained. A related term, near patient testing is also often used. The devices being developed could be used by individuals in the home or elsewhere and the need to visit hospitals or clinics would be removed.

Although sensors will be used in many health areas, the researchers decided to focus on cardiac problems. These are a major source of concern in all countries. It was pointed out that one in three of the audience at the conference will die as a result of cardio-vascular disease. Some of the technical details of the research were then described.

In the course of the project, many international figures have attended conferences and schools have also been visited.

The opportunity now exists for Ireland to become the centre of excellence in point-of-care technology.

THE PRESENTATION SLIDES CAN BE SEEN AT WWW.HEA.IE

RESPONDENT'S INPUT
'Health-care transcends all political boundaries. The number one cause of mortality in Ireland is heart disease. We are unique in Europe in having the highest degree of heart attacks. The current technology you have heard about is being translated into clinics and that is tremendous and has an impact. However listening to this, I would like to do something that is probably a little bit bold. I would like to try and predict the future.

If you thought you were pregnant, what would you do. You would walk into your pharmacy and you would get a pregnancy test kit. Years ago that was a visit to the doctor but now it is routine. If we look at what has happened in the last two months, we have seen two seismic changes in public health policy. The FDA have approved home testing for HIV. That tells you where the world is going. Secondly the national health services have a policy to move cardiac patients and respiratory patients out of the hospital into the community. You have seen today the development of devices that will be translated into people's hands and which they will be able to use.

For years we have heard about attracting major pharmaceutical companies into Ireland. We know we have them in manufacturing but we don't have them in R & D. I think what we will see in Ireland is a revolution in diagnostics. I think the sustainability of this and how it will attract industry in R & D into Ireland in the future is absolutely fantastic. This technology will transcend every boundary, that's the excitement of this.'

Armagh Conference

PANEL DISCUSSION

Panel Members
- Dermot O'Doherty, InterTrade Ireland
- Tony Kennedy, Chief Executive, Cooperation Ireland
- Michael Kelly, HEA
- Dermot Kenny, RSCI and Beaumont Hospital
- Barney McLaughlin, Donegal County Council
- Peter Smyth, Former Joint Secretary, North–South Ministerial Council
- Brian Symington, Director, Royal National Institute for the Deaf, Northern Ireland

In introducing the discussion session, Michael Kelly, HEA, posed three general questions which he suggested could be the basis for the discussion.
- How do we extract maximum value from the projects?
- What could be done by departments, the HEA and others to assist this process going forward?
- Looking forward to the development of a successor programme, what views are there as to how such a programme might be configured so as to optimise value for Northern Ireland and the border counties.

The comments and suggestions made during the discussion that followed are captured under relevant headings below.

Sustainability and funding
Much of the discussion centred on the need for funding to support on-going cross-border activity. Researchers face some difficulties in this area for several reasons including:

- Difficulties raising funding at individual university or project level

  In the Republic of Ireland humanities and social sciences receive about 0.7% of the core research budget. The next comparator in Europe is the UK at 7%, while the budget in Austria is approximately 14%.

  Under Peace I one in two applications got funding. Under Peace II one in four applications got funding. Under Peace II extension, one in six applications got funding and all things being equal, under Peace III one in ten applications will get funding.

- The problem of jurisdiction with institutions working to different rules and policies.

- Problems faced by community workers on the ground in co-operating on an educational project.

Some solutions suggested were to:

- Cut down the focus and concentrate on specific small deliverable projects that could be brought to the attention of the political or business communities.
- Identify areas both North and South with the same needs. Visual impairment is the perfect example.
- Ensure that research work is 'embedded in policy'.
- Develop an overall framework for cross-border research at a strategic level.

Strategic framework

Many inputs focused on the need for a cross-border strategy to provide a framework for these activities into the future. It was suggested that there is no clear evidence of such strategic thinking about North–South or cross-border co-operation in government circles. It is not viewed as a serious issue. If it is a national goal it must have a strategy, targets and a budget. Leadership and a coordinated approach is essential.

It was suggested that a discussion document be prepared which would facilitate a debate concerning future approaches.

One suggestion called for *'an imaginative new scheme to create new dialogues and new ways of understanding'*.

It was also suggested that, although the event is called the 'Close-Out Conference', it should really mark the beginning of a new process.

Dissemination of information

Dissemination of information is considered to be of critical importance. There is a need to show that the universities are actively engaged in society. However it was noted that there are no incentives for researchers to disseminate information at community level. Many academics frequently address community groups etc. but such activities are not considered during academic assessment processes. Community activity is not generally recognised as achievement in the universities. This difficulty in engaging in dialogue with statutory agencies, private bodies or the community sector is a serious problem.

Higher education

Other issues associated with third-level institutions were cited:

- Staff mobility across institutions is seen as particularly important in cementing collaboration. This could be readily encouraged at postgraduate level.

- It was suggested that a North–South commission of enquiry into the public value of the university sector might be worthwhile. This would encompass issues such as the vitality, vibrancy and sustainability of each subject.

In response to a point regarding the number of cross-border initiatives, it was pointed out that the **Centre for Cross-Border Studies** maintains a database of some 3,000 such activities.

Evaluation of the programme

In response to several questions about evaluation, the HEA stated that the Special EU Programmes Body will be carrying out such an evaluation.

CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Appendix 3

CROSSBORDER
PROGRAMME
FORRESEARCH
ANDEDUCATION
CONTRIBUTING
TOPEACE AND
RECONCILIATION

Appendix 3 CONFERENCE DELEGATES

DUNDALK

Mr.	Denis	Anderson	Trinity College Dublin
Prof.	John	Anderson	Heartsine
Mr.	Paul	Anderson	Dergfinn Partnership
Ms	Francine	Blache-Breen	Donegal Community Workers Co Co
Dr.	Bob	Blue	Dublin City University
Ms	Frances	Boyle	-
Ms	Tara	Boyle	SEUPB
Dr.	John	Bowman	-
Dr.	Linda	Bradley	Dept for Employment and Learning
Ms	Carolyn	Brown	Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
Ms	Cliona	Buckley	Higher Education Authority
Mr.	Tony	Byrne	-
Ms	Brenda	Campbell	Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
Dr.	Lorenzo	Canas Bottos	University College Dublin
Dr.	Matt	Cannon	Irish Peace Institute, UL
Mr.	Thomas	Carroll	-
Ms	Ruth	Carroll Clarke	-
Ms	Sorcha	Carthy	Higher Education Authority
Ms	Joyce	Classon	Down Strands Womens Group
Prof.	John	Coakley	University College Dublin
Ms	Breeda	Connaughton	Department of Education and Science
Mrs	Laura	Connolly	Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister
Ms	Patrice	Crawley	ADM/CPA
Ms	Mary	Crossan	St Johnston & Carrigans Family
Mr.	Denis	Cunnins	Institute of Technology, Dundalk
Ms	Fiona	Davis	Higher Education Authority
Mr.	Gerard	Deane	Holywell Consultancy
Ms	Jaclyn	Deery	NISRA
Mr.	John	Devaney	Confederation of European Councillors
Dr.	Sean	Duffy	Queen's University Belfast
Ms	Sheena	Duffy	Higher Education Authority
Mr.	Peter	Emerson	The de Borda Institute
Dr.	Honor	Fagan	National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Ms	Caroline	Fearon	Intertrade Ireland
Mr.	Tommy	Fegan	North South Exchange Consortium
Dr.	Geraldine	Fennell	Higher Education Authority
Dr.	Andrew	Finlay	Trinity College Dublin
Dr.	Lisa	Fitzpatrick	Waterford Institute of Technology
Mr.	Martin	Frazer	Department of An Taoiseach
Ms	Catherine	Friel	TUATH
Mrs	Geraldine	Gallagher	Donegal County Council
Ms	Kathleen	Gallagher	-
Dr.	Abbas	Gamal	University of Ulster - Jordanstown
Ms	Deirdre	Garvey	The Wheel
Ms	Anna	Gettings	AG Education Services
Mr.	Paul	Ginnell	European Anti Poverty Network Ireland
Ms	Margaret	Glackin	Action Inishowen
Ms	Elaine	Harris	ISPCC
Dr.	Stephen	Hearty	Dublin City University
Dr.	Lisa	Higgins	Higher Education Authority
Prof.	Paddy	Hillyard	Queens University Belfast

Ms	Maura	Hoey	Ireland Project
Ms	Mairéad	Hughes	Centre for Cross Border Studies
Dr.	Stephen	Jerrams	Dublin Institute of Technology
Mr.	Kearney	Kearney	University of Ulster
Mr	Michael	Kelly	Higher Education Authority
Mr.	Nigel	Kent	Dublin City University
Mr.	John	Kerr	Omagh Community House
Dr.	Rob	Kitchin	National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Dr.	Billy	Leonard	University of Ulster
Dr.	Seamus	Lillis	Perspectives on Community Development in Ireland
Ms	Anne Marie	Logue	Institute of Technology, Letterkenny
Prof.	Kathleen	Lynch	University College Dublin
Prof.	Brian	MacCraith	Dublin City University
Mr.	Gerry	Maclochlainn	NIAPN
Ms	Orlaith	Mannion	Department of Finance
Dr.	Cathal	McCall	Queen's University Belfast
Mr.	JJ	McCarron	NICVA
Ms	Patricia	McCarron	University College Dublin
Ms	Denise	McCool	TUATH
Ms	Inez	McCormack	Irish North/South Health Services Partnership
Mr.	Gordon	McCullough	NICVA
Mr.	Jim	McCusker	European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) / Peace II Monitoring Committee
Mr.	Paul	McCusker	Institute of Technology, Letterkenny
Dr.	Gary	McDarby	-
Dr.	Joanne	McDonald	RSCI
Mr	Peter	McEvoy	Trinity College Dublin
Ms	Ann	McGeeney	Institute of Technology, Dundalk
Mrs	Mary	McGowan	Donegal Co. Childcare Ctte..
Mr.	Ian	McKenna	Department of Education and Science
Ms	Trish	McKeown	Ireland Project
Mr.	Michael	McKernan	Lagan Consulting
Mr.	Bernard	McLaughlin	Donegal County Council
Prof.	Eithne	McLaughlin	Queens University Belfast
Ms	Fiona	McLaughlin	The Educational Trust
Prof.	Jim	McLaughlin	University of Ulster - Jordanstown
Dr.	Katrina	McLaughlin	Queen's University Belfast
Dr.	Patrick	McWilliams	Queen's University Belfast
Prof.	Elizabeth	Meehan	Queen's University Belfast
Ms	Dorothea	Melvin	Encounter
Rev.	Stanley	Millen	Institute of Technology, Dundalk
Dr.	Donal	Minihan	Department of Agriculture & Food
Mr.	Kevin	Moran	North South Rural Voice
Dr.	Orla	Muldoon	Queen's University Belfast
Mr.	Paddy	Muldoon	Ballintra Laghey Dev. Co.
Prof.	Ronaldo	Munck	Dublin City University
Dr.	David	Newman	Queens University Belfast
Ms	Valerie	Ni Heideain	Katie Murphy & Associates
Mr.	Dermot	O'Doherty	Intertrade Ireland
Mr.	Pat	O'Donnell	Institute of Technology, Tallaght
Prof.	Richard	O'Kennedy	Dublin City University
Mr.	Ciaran	O'Mathuna	County Louth VEC
Mr.	Peter	O'Neill	NI Human Rights Comission
Sr.	Anne	O'Shea	Board of Governors of Stranmillis College

Mr.	Gerry	O'Sullivan	Higher Education Authority
Mr.	Mearns	Pollack	-
Dr.	Fran	Porter	Queens University Belfast
Mrs	Sally	Quinn	Down Strand Womens Group
Ms	Monica	Ramsey	Dergfinn Centre
Mr.	Kieran	Rankin	Inst for British-Irish Studies - UCD
Mr.	Stewart	Roche	Higher Educaton Authority
Dr.	Kevin	Rockett	Trinity College Dublin
Dr.	Nathalie	Rougier	University College Dublin
Ms	Catriona	Ryan	Higher Educaton Authority
Mr.	Jim	Salisbury	AG Education Services
Ms	Mary	Scally	Health Services Executive
Ms	Shana	Singh	Higher Education Authority
Ms	Libby	Smit	Community Relations Council
Ms	Valerie	Smith	Trinity College Dublin
Mr.	Simon	Stephens	Institute of Technology, Letterkenny
Mr.	R	Subramanian	NIBEC, UU
Ms	Ruth	Taillon	ADM/CPA
Dr.	Etain	Tannam	University College Dublin
Ms	Christine	Tiernan	Department of Education and Science
Mrs	Janet	Toal	InterTradeIreland
Dr.	Jennifer	Todd	University College Dublin
Dr.	Karen	Trew	Queen's University Belfast
Mr.	Mark	Tweedie	NIBEC, UU
Mrs.	Kitty	Warnock	ATGWU

ARMAGH

Mr.	Denis	Anderson	Irish School of Ecumenics
Prof.	James	Anderson	Queen's University Belfast
Prof.	Mark	Bailey	Armagh Observatory
Mr.	Denis	Bates	University of Limerick
Ms.	Paula	Beattie	Trauma Recovery Network
Mrs.	Catherine	Bell	Department for Employment and Learning
Dr.	Bob	Blue	Dublin City University
Dr.	Linda	Bradley	Department for Employment and Learning
Mr.	Neil	Brady	University College Dublin
Ms.	Sorcha	Carthy	Higher Education Authority
Dr.	Abigail	Chantler	Higher Education Authority
Mr.	Yan	Chen	Queen's University Belfast
Dr.	Patricia	Clarke	Centre for Cross Border Studies
Mr.	Pat	Colgan	SEUPB
Mr.	Tim	Conlon	IRCHSS
Miss	Diane	Connor	Simon Community NI
Dr.	Maurna	Crozier	NI Community Relations Council
Mr.	Tim	Cullinane	Department of Education and Science
Mr.	John	Cusack	Athlone Institute of Technology
Ms.	Fiona	Davis	Higher Education Authority
Ms.	Síle	de Valera (TD)	Department of Education & Science
Mrs.	Lorraine	Dennis	University of Ulster
Prof.	Hastings	Donnan	Queen's University Belfast
Ms	Sheena	Duffy	Higher Education Authority
Dr.	Honor	Fagan	School of Sociology
Mr.	Frank	Fox	Department of Education & Science

Ms	Catherine	Friel	TUATH
Mr.	Marty	Fullerton	Department for Employment and Learning
Mr.	Stuart	Garvie	National Qualifications Authority of Ireland
Ms.	Anna	Gethings	AG Education Services
Dr.	Katy	Hayward	University College Dublin
Dr.	Stephen	Hearty	Dublin City University
Prof.	Paddy	Hillyard	Queen's University Belfast
Mr.	Martin	Hynes	IRCSET
Mr.	Brendan	Kane	NICVA
Mr.	Damien	Kavanagh	Union of Students in Ireland
Mr.	Michael	Kelly	Higher Education Authority
Mr.	Tony	Kennedy (OBE)	Cooperation Ireland
Prof.	Dermot	Kenny	RCSI and Beaumont Hospital
Mr.	Nigel	Kent	Dublin City University
Dr.	Brian	Lambkin	Centre for Migration Studies
Prof.	Kathleen	Lynch	University College Dublin
Dr.	Maureen	Lyons	University College Dublin
Prof.	Brian	MacCraith	Dublin City University
Prof.	Eric	McAdams	University of Ulster
Mr.	Sean	McAteer	North South Ministerial Council
Mr.	David	McAuley	Dept for Employment and Learning
Mr.	Paul	McCusker	Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Mr.	Boyd	McDowell	Dept for Employment and Learning
Mr.	Barney	McLaughlin	Donegal County Council
Prof.	Eithne	McLaughlin	Queen's University Belfast
Prof.	Jim	McLaughlin	University of Ulster
Prof.	Elizabeth	Meehan	Queen's University Belfast
Dr.	Eucharia	Meehan	Higher Education Authority
Dr.	Orla	Muldoon	Queen's University Belfast
Ms	Susan	Muldoon	University College Dublin
Dr.	David	Newman	Queen's University Belfast
Mr.	Dermot	O'Doherty	InterTrade Ireland
Prof.	Liam	O'Dowd	Queen's University Belfast
Mr.	Eoin	O'Mahony	Irish Bishops' Conference
Mr.	Gerry	O'Sullivan	Higher Education Authority
Ms	Hannah	Perrin	The Wheel
Mr.	Andy	Pollak	Centre for Cross Border Studies
Mr.	Mearns	Pollak	-
Mr.	Michael	Potter	Training for Women Network
Mr.	Seamus	Purseil	HETAC
Mr.	Stewart	Roche	Higher Education Authority
Dr.	Nathalie	Rougier	University College Dublin
Mr.	Jim	Salisbury	AG Education Services
Dr.	Jose	Santos	University of Ulster
Ms	Louise	Sherry	Higher Education Authority
Mr.	Joseph	Shiels	Centre for Cross Border Studies
Dr.	Peter	Smyth	North South Ministerial Council
Ms	Doreen	Smyth	St. Josephs School for the Visually Impaired
Dr.	Raman	Subramanian	University of Ulster
Mr.	Brian	Symington	Royal National Institute for the Deaf, NI
Ms	Ruth	Taillon	Border Action
Dr.	Jennifer	Todd	University College Dublin
Mr.	Mark	Tweedie	University of Ulster
Mr.	Mengseng	Wong	Queen's University Belfast

Appendix 4 PARTICIPATING EXHIBITORS

The following organisations mounted exhibitions at the either or both of the Dundalk and Armagh events.

CENTRE FOR CROSS BORDER STUDIES
The **Centre for Cross Border Studies**, founded in September 1999 and based in Armagh and Dublin, researches and develops co-operation across the Irish border in education, health, business, public administration, communications, agriculture, the environment and a range of other practical areas.
http://www.crossborder.ie

CRAOL
The **Community Radio Forum** was set up to provide an opportunity for inter-station communication and information exchange. CRAOL has a number of important functions. It co-ordinates the development of the sector, lobbies on its behalf and works to encourage the growth of the Community Radio movement in Ireland.
http://www.craol.ie

HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
The **Higher Education Authority (HEA)** is the statutory planning and development body for higher education and research in Ireland. The HEA manage *The Cross-Border Programme for Research and Education contributing to Peace and Reconciliation* on behalf of the Department of Education and Science, Republic of Ireland and the Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland.
http://www.hea.ie

INTERTRADE IRELAND
InterTradeIreland, the trade and business development body, promotes North-South trade by building business capability and competitiveness. Formed under the 1999 British-Irish Agreement Act, InterTradeIreland aims to identify and overcome barriers to business growth and competitiveness by encouraging information share, joint marketing initiatives, joint R&D and other ventures.
http://www.intertradeireland.com

NIAPN
The **Northern Ireland Anti-Poverty Network** was established in 1991 to create a focus on poverty. It is an interactive network with over 300 members drawn from the voluntary and community sectors, public and statutory bodies. It is one of fifteen members of the European Anti-Poverty Network.
http://www.niapn.org

NICVA
The **Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action** is an umbrella body for voluntary, community and charitable groups in Northern Ireland. NICVA provides over 1000 affiliated members with information, advice and training on a wide range of issues from management consultancy and finance, through to policy development and lobbying.
http://www.nicva.org

SEUPB

The Special EU Programmes Body is one of the six cross-border bodies set up under the British-Irish Agreement Act. The Body manages the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace II and the INTERREG IIIA Programme). The SEPBU is also involved in the cross-border elements of other community initiatives.
http://www.seupb.org

THE WHEEL

The Wheel is a non-profit, independent resource centre and advocate for community and voluntary organisations. It offers support, advocacy and leadership for community and voluntary activity across Ireland. The Wheel, in its capacity as a resource centre, provides high quality support programmes.
http://www.wheel.ie

HEA

Higher Education Authority
An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas

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