

ASSOCIATION OF IRISH REGIONS



Northern & Western
Regional Assembly



Tionól Réigiúnach an Deiscirt
Southern Regional Assembly



Tionól Reigiúnach Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly



Shaping Ireland's Regional Development.
February 7-9th, Monaghan



Special thanks to IPB Insurance for supporting this event

Tuesday, February 7th

7 - 9pm

Pre-event networking

Minister Heather Humphreys, Minister for Social Protection and Rural & Community Development to attend and address attendees.

/DAY 1/

Wednesday, February 8th

8 - 9:30am

Registration open

Welcome and Opening

9:30 - 9:45am

The Moderator will open the event and welcome all participants. The Cathaoirleach for the Association of Irish Regions (AIR), **Cllr Pip Breen**, Wexford County Council, will then provide comments that set the scene for the upcoming sessions.

Event MC and Moderator: **Jonathan Healy, Presenter and Broadcaster**

SESSION 1

Enhanced Regional Planning

9:45 - 11:15am

This session is dedicated to discussing the mechanisms for regional policy coordination. We will explore how regions can increase local and national development outcomes through a collaborative approach to governance and policy implementation. The key role of the regions in bridging the gap between local, national and European policy to enhance implementation will be demonstrated.

Speakers:

- Paul Hogan *Acting Assistant Secretary of Planning Division within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage*
- Niall Cussen *Chief Executive and Planning Regulator at the Office of the Planning Regulator*

Case Studies:

- Clare Bannon *Assistant Director and Senior Planner at the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly*
- Eunan Quinn *Senior Planner at Donegal County Council*

Panel Discussion: Implementation of RSES

- Prof Niamh Moore-Cherry *Professor and Deputy College Principal at University College Dublin*
- Karen Kenny *Senior Planning Advisor at the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage*
- Dr Conor Norton *Head of the School of Architecture, Building and Environment at Technological University Dublin*
- Cllr Pádraig McEvoy *Kildare County Council and Member of EMRA*

11:15 - 11:40am

Coffee Break

SESSION 2

Strong Regional Economic Development

11:40 - 1:15pm

During this session we will explore approaches that enhance regional coordination for greater economic development of our regions. Speakers and an interactive panel discussion will consider how regional approaches can enhance the value of funding for development, increasing innovation and sustainability in our regions.

Speakers:

- Declan Hughes *Assistant Secretary General, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment*
- Michael Flood *Policy Analyst at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)*

Case Studies:

- Dr. Teresa Hooks *EU Programme Executive at the Northern and Western Regional Assembly*
- Kathryn Kiely *Vice President for External Affairs at South East Technological University (SETU)*

Panel Discussion

- Tara Ryan *Atlantic Futures Coordinator at the University of Galway*
- Helen Leahy *Head of Regional Policy at Ibec*
- Cllr David Maxwell *Monaghan County Council and Member of NWRA*
- Prof Edgar Morgenroth *Professor of Economics at Dublin City University Business School*

1:15 - 2:15pm

Lunch Break

2:15 - 3pm

Keynote

John Gibbons, Journalist and Environmentalist will speak on “Getting to Net Zero”, Climate Action Plan delivery and the Role of Regions.

3 - 3:20pm

Coffee Break

SESSION 3

Connected Regions

3:20 - 4:45pm

This session is dedicated to discussing mobility and regional connectivity. Topics will explore transport, the movement of people and the role of regional planning in the Climate Action Plan.

Speakers:

- Anne Graham *Chief Executive Officer with the National Transport Authority*
- Dr Brian Caulfield *Associate Professor and Head of Discipline in the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering at Trinity College Dublin*

Case Studies:

- Robert Fennelly *Regional Planning Officer at the Southern Regional Assembly*
- Mick Mulhern *Director of Planning and Transport in South Dublin County Council*

Panel Discussion:

- Dr Brian McCann *Lecturer and Programme Chair, Masters in Road and Transport Engineering, Atlantic Technological University, Sligo*
- Caoimhín Ó Ciaruáin *Assistant Secretary at the Department of Transport*
- Dr Lorraine D’Arcy *Sustainability Action Research and Innovation Lead at Technological University Dublin*
- Cllr Deirdre O’Brien *Cork County Council and Member of SRA*

Wrap up of Day 1

6:30pm

Dinner with a high-level keynote address

/DAY 2/

Thursday, February 9th

SESSION 4

EU Affairs

9:30 - 10:05am

The Regional Assemblies act as a key link between both EU policy and funding instruments. This session explores the landscape of EU funds for the period of 2022-2027 to connect key stakeholders with relevant opportunities.

Speakers:

- Timothy Hayes *Head of Communications in European Commission Representation in Ireland*
- Tadhg Browne *EU Support Officer and Irish Delegation Co-ordinator (CoR) at the Irish Regions European Office*

10:05 - 12:15pm

Rapid-fire sessions

Two sessions will give a quick overview of the types of funding available to our regions.

10:05 - 11:05am *European Impact within our Regions*

Funds covered in this session include: Interreg Europe, Interreg Atlantic Area, Interreg Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, Interreg North-West Europe, and Urbact.

11.05 - 11.45am *Coffee Break and Expo of Funding Programmes*

11.45 - 12.15pm *Building Regional Resilience*

Funds covered in this session include: EU Just Transition Fund, PEACE Plus and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

12:15 - 12:30pm

Closing comments and key takeaways

Close of Seminar and Training Event

12:30pm

A light lunch will be offered before participants depart.



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