

PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland

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BRIEFING MEETING

PEACEPLUS Programme 2021-2027

Investment Area 6.1

Friday 1 December 2023



Special EU Programmes Body
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
Special EU Skemes Boadie



Welcome and Introduction

Gina McIntyre

Chief Executive

Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)



Seamus McGuinness

Research Professor

Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)

The Evolving Nature of North / South Comparative Research

PEACEPLUS Programme
Briefing
01/12/2023

Presenter
Seamus McGuinness



- Previously limited North-South comparative research was undertaken
- Recent years seen this change rapidly as a consequence of Analysing and Researching Ireland North and South (a RIA and Uni of Notre Dame joint initiative) as well as Department of the Taoiseach Shared Island Unit funding to ESRI and NESC
- This shift to research on North-South issues has come about as a result of Brexit and other political/social shifts across the island

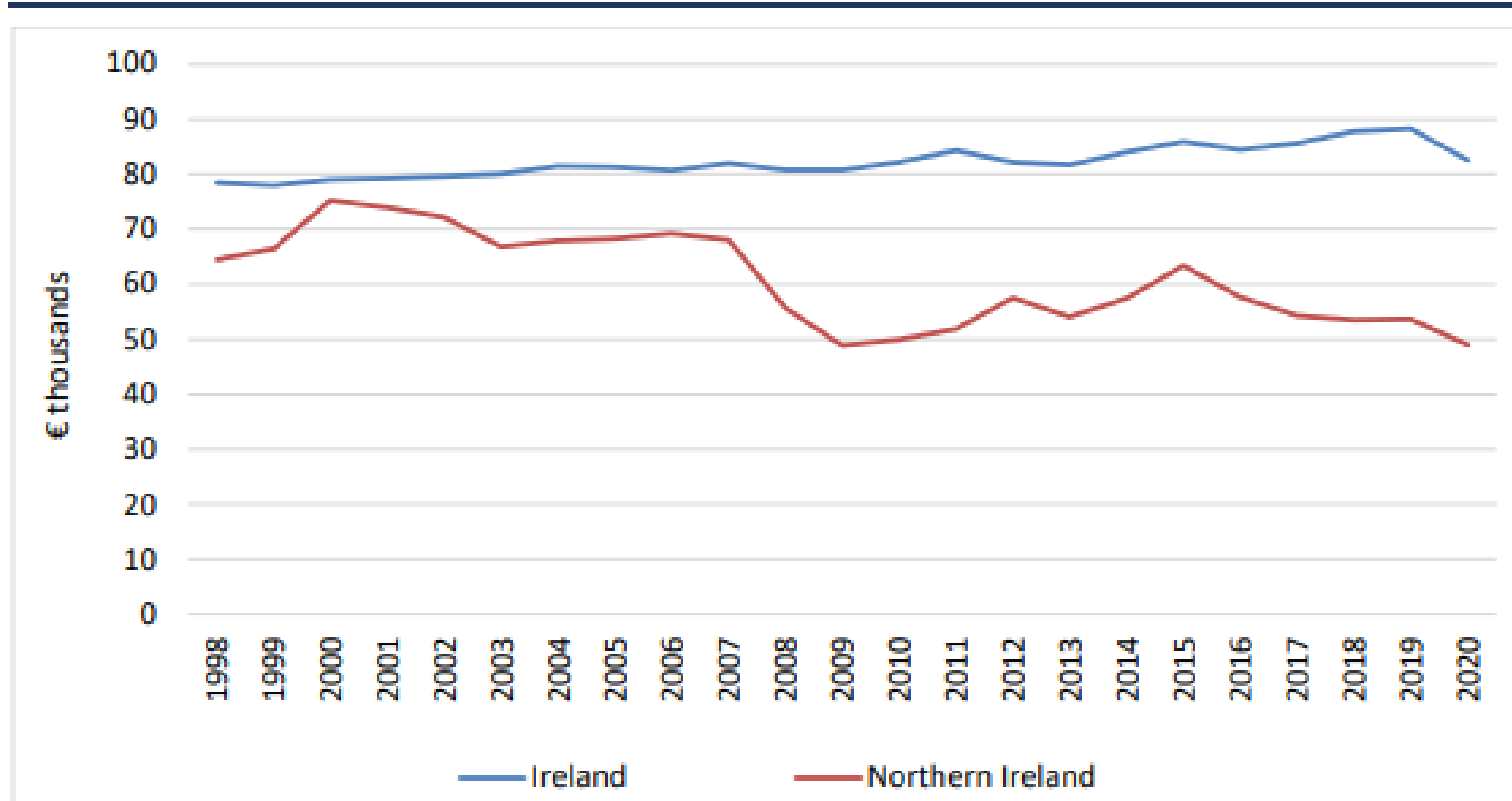
ESRI Work so far...

- Living Standards (Bergin & McGuinness, 2021)
- Cross-border trade in services (Lawless, 2021)
- FDI (Siedschlag et al., 2021)
- Trade Flows (Flynn et al., 2021)
- Healthcare (Connolly et al., 2022)
- Education (Smyth et al., 2022)
- Productivity (Bergin & McGuinness, 2022)
- Energy infrastructure and supports (Menton et al., 2022)
- Early childhood education (Curristan et al., 2023)
- Migrant integration (McGinnity et al., 2023)
- International Goods Trade (Kren & Lawless, 2023)
- Student Mobility (Smyth & Darmody, 2023)
- Political and Social Attitudes (Laurence et al., 2023)

Comparison of education and training systems

- Levels of educational attainment in the North are lower than those in the South, with a higher share of the population possessing lower levels of schooling
 - At the upper end of the spectrum, the proportions with FE qualifications are also much lower in the North
 - Early school leaving is two to three times higher in Northern Ireland compared to Ireland and this gap has widened over time
- At all levels of qualification, wages are around 40% higher in Ireland than in the North
- Social class is a much stronger predictor of educational failure in the North and the ongoing use of **academic selection** is likely to strengthen this adverse effect
- In the South, the DEIS programme has helped lower social inequalities.
- North South co-operation is limited and ad-hoc in nature but recognised as a positive.

Productivity Over Time in Ireland and NI



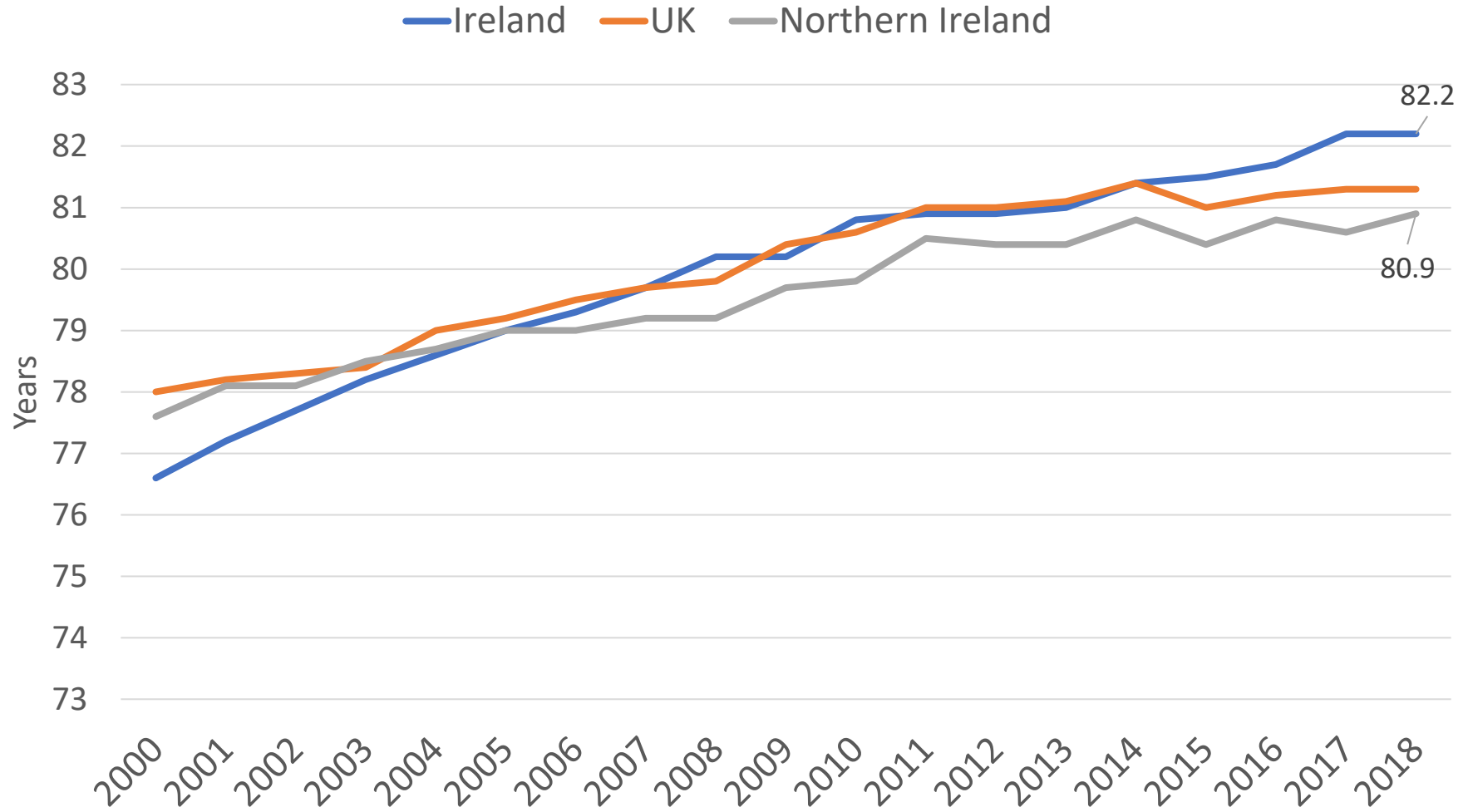
Modelling Productivity

- We attempt to model productivity for each region to examine the determinants
- The model holds up well for Ireland
 - sectoral productivity increasing with levels of investment and also the employment share of educated workers. We also find that export intensity is also an important factor in driving Irish productivity.
 - This is line with our priors
- For NI however the model doesn't hold
 - Despite using comparable data sources and using the same methods , we find no evidence of a causal relationship between the range of factors captured (education, investment, exports) and NI productivity.
 - Such an outcome raises questions regarding the underlying competitiveness of the Northern Ireland economy and its responsiveness to changes in what are generally considered key policy levers.

Primary care systems of Ireland and Northern Ireland

- The report examines the primary healthcare systems of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- A key distinction between the healthcare systems is the absence of a universal healthcare system in Ireland.
 - However, both systems are currently facing similar challenges including increasing demand for healthcare services, increasing expenditure and workforce shortages.
 - For some population health measures, including life expectancy and infant mortality, Ireland has performed better than Northern Ireland in recent years
- There are high levels of unmet healthcare needs in both regions which have led to avoidable hospitalisations
 - In terms of potentially avoidable hospitalisations (hospitalisations which might have been prevented if timely and effective primary care was provided), neither system consistently performed better than the other.
- The most common reason for unmet healthcare needs in both Ireland and Northern Ireland relates to long waits to access care and Covid has made things worse.
 - Between 2017 and 2021, for day and in-patient services, the proportion on the waiting list for more than one year has increased from 12 to 20 per cent in Ireland and from 20 to 60 per cent in the North.

Life Expectancy at Birth



Source: OECD Regional Database

Migrant integration – key findings

- In both jurisdictions, most migrant groups are highly skilled and more likely to have third-level qualifications than the native-born population, though the skills profile of migrants is generally higher in RoI than in Northern Ireland.
- The share of migrants who are citizens of their new country of residence is greater in RoI, where 35 per cent of migrants are Irish citizens, than in NI, where 17 per cent of those born outside the UK are British citizens.
- Migrants in both jurisdictions have high employment rates, particularly EU migrants.
- In 2017/2018, attitudes to migrants are more favourable in RoI than in NI Ireland across a range of outcomes measured.

Attitudes – Key Findings

- In NI, there was a general rise in satisfaction with democracy since 1998, but then a decline since 2016, and political trust, media trust, and especially optimism for the future have seen longer-term declines, particularly in the last few years observed (2016-2018).
- These declines occurred at a time of renewed political instability from 2017 onwards.
- In Ireland, with the onset of the crash (2007/08), satisfaction with democracy, political trust, media trust, trust in other people and optimism all saw substantial declines, while support for reducing income inequality increased.
- Ireland started and finished the study period with some of the most positive social and political attitudes in Western Europe. However, since 2019, Ireland has seen some attitudes becoming less positive.

Attitudes – Key Findings

- The past 20 years have seen the emergence and widening of gaps in social and political attitudes between more and less educated groups in both jurisdictions.
- In NI, older generations have tended to hold more positive social and political attitudes than younger generations.
- In Ireland, generational differences are smaller and more stable
- There is some evidence that, in RoI since 2019 and in NI since 2016, younger generations report lower media trust than older generations. This is particularly evident among those born after 1990, who have seen their media trust decline in recent years in both jurisdictions.

Conclusions

- We are beginning to know much more about how key aspects of the economy and society function and compare to each other on both sides of the border.
- Substantial barriers exist to expanding our knowledge base further including a lack of comparable data.
- There is also a need for a more programmatic approach to the topics studied with an emphasis on those where mutual co-operation would generate the greatest benefits to both jurisdictions.
- It is important for research to demonstrate where gaps exist, however, this should not be the end of the research process
- There is a need to prioritise the areas where deficiencies can be most readily addressed and to identify the most effective policy interventions that lend themselves to mutual co-operation.



Michael D'Arcy

D'Arcy Smyth & Associates

'Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration'

Overview, Information & Guidelines



A new beginning

“Every end in history necessarily contains a new beginning: this beginning is the promise, the only message which the end can ever produce”

Johanna “Hannah” Arendt (1906-1975) influential German-American political theorist



Background

IA 6.1 is supporting the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement by:

- Strengthening peace and prosperity
- Investing in tangible dynamic projects
- Stimulating social and economic growth/regeneration
- Promoting social inclusion of socially/economically marginalised



Context

Viewed through a prism of embedding peace and prosperity:

- This is a new era and so needs new thinking
- Lasting and tangible solutions need to be devised and developed
- IA 6.1 will do so with medium to longer term strategic focus
- And projects that combine evidence innovation and commitment



Strategy

Every strategy has a clear aim – and IA 6.1's is to

- *Build and Embed Partnership and Collaboration (for)*
- *Strategic Planning and Engagement [Programme] (to)*
- *Support a better cooperation governance*



Operational Guidelines

Undertake cross border strategic engagement and planning:

- Supporting better cross-border cooperation and governance
- Implemented by engagement with strategic stakeholders
- Targeting legal and administrative and regulatory obstacles to North/South (N/S) cooperation in relevant sectors.



Investment Guidelines

IA 6.1's €32m for qualifying cross border projects will focus on:

- enabling joint development
- management strategies
- cooperation and capacity building
- identification of achievable solutions

That leverage economies of scale, proximity and/or conditions to mutual benefit



Collaboration Guidelines

Design and/or develop and submit projects aimed at:

- Reducing legal/administrative barriers to cross border cooperation
- Jointly developing and managing the strategies devised
- Delivering mutually value adding cooperation and capacity building
- Identifying tangible and achievable solutions



Geographic Scope

- Projects/partners from the Functional Area can be approved when they undertake significant work within scope and meet the qualifying criteria, **provided** benefits flow to the Designated Area of Northern Ireland and the Six Broder Counties of Ireland

- (ie the rest of Ireland and beyond can participate)



Opportunities

Pilot project and demonstration initiatives: for

(1) Exploratory dialogue/feasibility work leading to pilot projects to jointly develop solutions

(2) Demonstration initiatives on proven solutions to increase their impact in key areas



Opportunities cont.

Capacity building and skills research hub: for:

- (1) Training, peer reviews and staff exchanges to enhance institutional capacity
- (2) Establishment of an all-island skills research hub, in cooperation with relevant agencies where stakeholders commission/foster cb research and innovation, driven by Programme Area's social and economic needs



Benefits

Strategic development of cb projects/partnerships/cooperation to:

- Strengthen current and/or future cooperation/collaboration
- Re-set implementation and/or management
- Enhance sustainability of existing activity and its impact
- Form/adapt cooperative/inclusive cb relationships/linkages



Actions

Identify key obstacles and/or unused potential capacity building for:

- cb labour market hinderances, health care, connectivity, tourism, energy and issues related to legacy of the conflict
- Responding to challenges deriving from Brexit/Covid-19 emergency
- Bringing relevant actors together to design/develop achievable solutions
- Involving authorities at national, regional and local levels, voluntary and community sectors, enterprises, and stakeholder networks



Advice

Personally offered and drawn from direct experience:

- Leverage existing potential and share experience, expertise and knowledge (eg on cb issues or between entities on a cb basis)
- Put a 'fit for purpose' cooperation/collaboration agreement in place fully aligned to deliver what IA 6.1's investment is enabling
- Make best effort to 'bottom out' potential issues before applying
- Have the agency to deliver what is promised in the proposals and being to committed



Methodologies

The following can be one element, a significant part or sole objective of a project:

- ***Collaboration and dialogue:*** resulting in cross-border collaborative actions in key sectors (eg business, health care, tourism, energy, environment and air quality)
- ***Feasibility studies and data collection:*** supporting the design/development of achievable solutions on a N/S cb basis at a local, regional or all-island level



Methodologies Cont

- ***Presenting new evidence*** on border issues/opportunities (eg future skills needs and cross border labour market mapping; air quality modelling and analysis)
- ***Jointly developing cross border strategies***: such as marketing/branding initiatives or spatially related solutions to shared operational responsibilities (eg by regions/councils/organisations)



Timelines

- There may be three Calls for Applicant Projects
- Project duration can vary between two and up to five years
- Project funding sought can vary
- Evaluating and approval will be expedited



Outcomes

Success for IA 6.1 will include but not be confined to:

- Formation of new and/or strengthening existing relationships of trust
- Original thinking and innovative cb actions
- Evolution of existing and/or new cooperative or collaborative capacity
- Delivery of mutually achievable beneficial and tangible outputs



Figure 2: Early turnpike routes
(1729-1739)



Figure 3: Current motorway network
(2015)



Physical Connectivity

1920



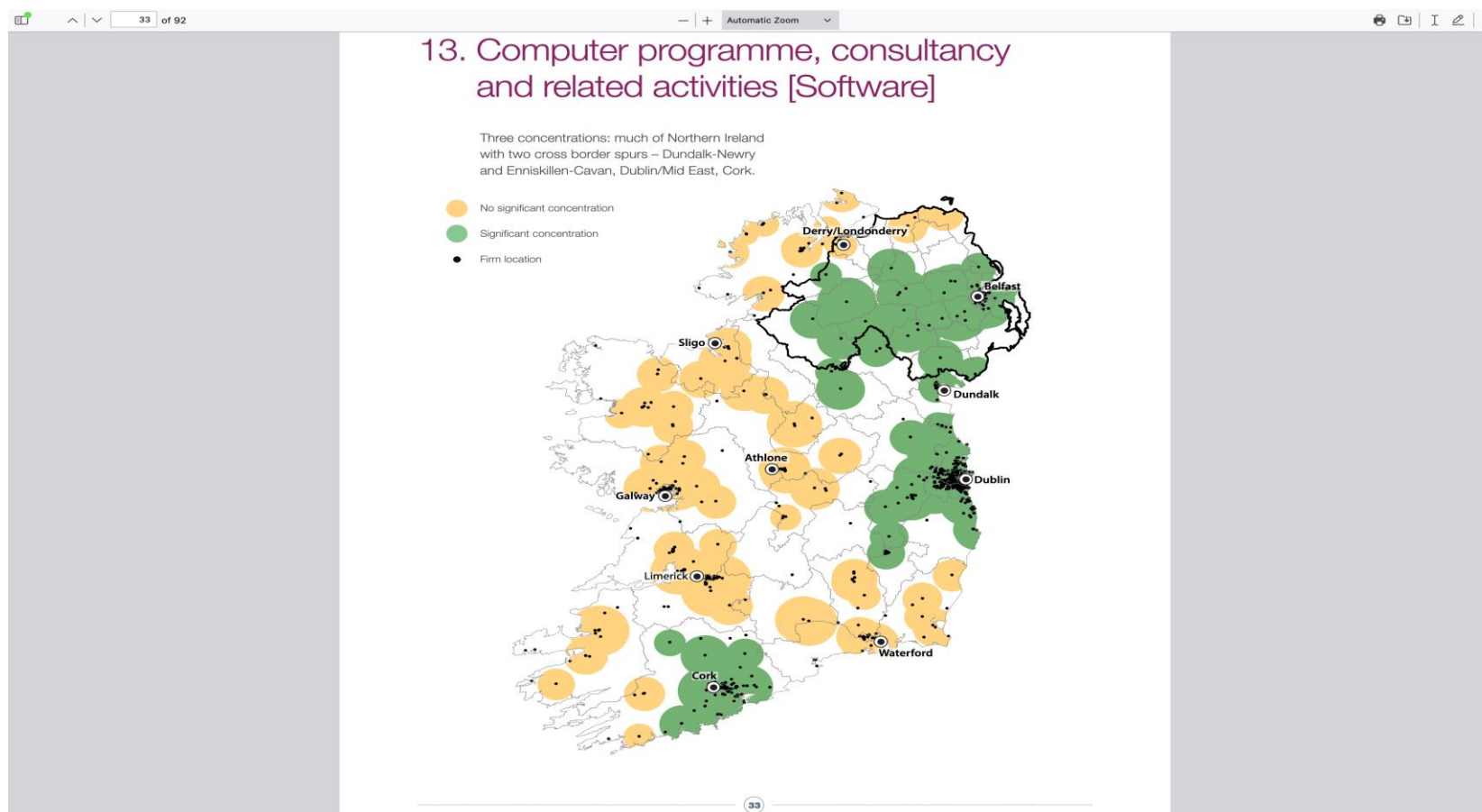
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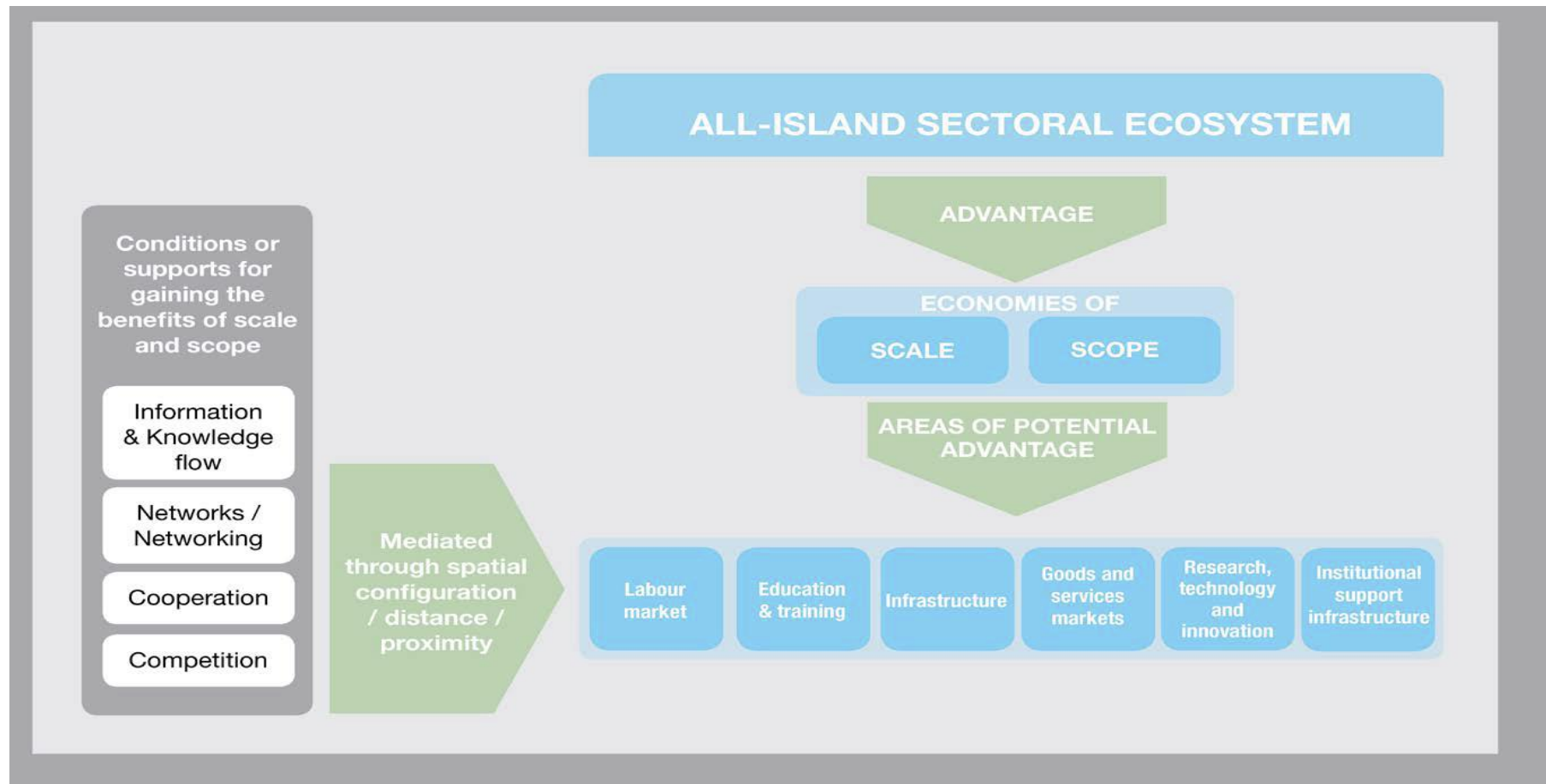
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Digital Clustering (2015)



Benefits of Scale/Scope



CONCLUSION

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!



Paul Beattie

Director of Managing Authority

Overview of the Call

Call for 6.1

- How will it work?
- What might some of our areas of interest be?
- Our targets
- Horizontal Principles
- Next Steps





Building and Embedding
Partnership and
Collaboration

Any Questions?



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Closing remarks

Gina McIntyre





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Thank you



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