



# Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2013

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Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Community and Local Government

# Irish Presidency

- ⦿ Particularly challenging period – Ireland in 2012 is very different to the Ireland of 2004
- ⦿ 6<sup>th</sup> Irish Presidency
- ⦿ EU is different too - 27 in 2012, 15 in 2004, 12 in 1996
- ⦿ Economic crisis likely to continue to provide a backdrop for Irish Presidency – and beyond!



# Territorial Cohesion Agenda

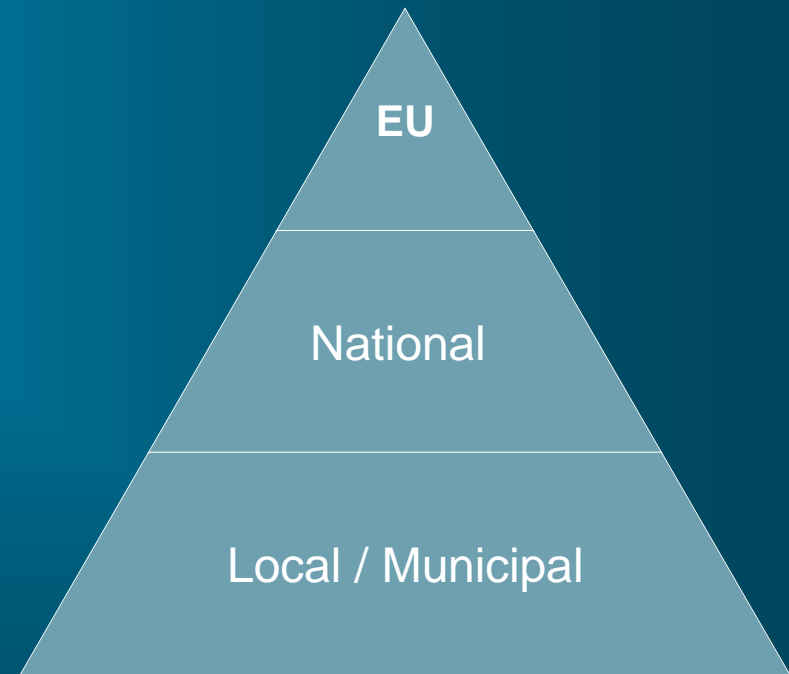
- ⦿ Key policy focus for Ireland
- ⦿ Spatial policies intrinsically aligned to competitiveness and economic renewal
- ⦿ Spatial issues must be embedded, where appropriate, in programmes / policies
- ⦿ Future of territorial cohesion must be shaped around principles of common goals, mutual cooperation and quality support

# Territorial Cohesion – Programme of Events

- Welcome to Dublin..
- Directors General Meeting on Territorial Cohesion and Cohesion Policy, 16 April 2013
- Back-to-back with Directors General Meeting on Urban Development, 16 April 2013
- Venue: Loughlinstown Centre

# Territorial Cohesion and Cohesion Policy - DGs Meeting

- ⦿ Aspects of agenda are inherited from past presidencies
- ⦿ Sharp focus on practical, on outcomes
- ⦿ EU level discussion of territorial cohesion
- ⦿ National consideration of spatial agenda
- ⦿ Local – how does territorial cohesion affect plan-making at local level
- ⦿ Relevance of territorial cohesion / cohesion policy to the citizen



# KITCASP project

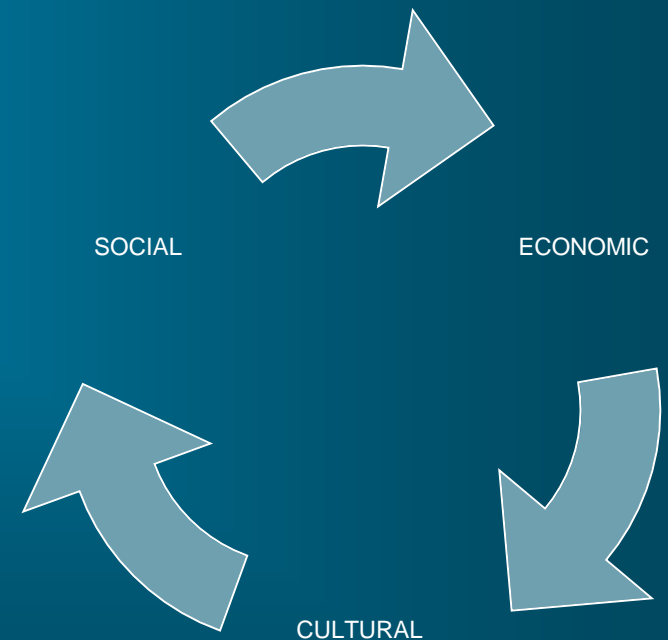
- ESPON
- Scotland, Ireland, Latvia, Iceland, Basque Country - Shared characteristics
- How can capacity for spatial analysis be made more robust and harmonised at national level
- How national experience translates and can inform the EU territorial agenda
- Outputs: Core set of indicators of territorial cohesion, economic competitiveness and sustainable development to inform spatial planning
- Interim report October 2012
- Final report May 2013

## Other Cohesion Policy and Territorial Cooperation related events

- ESPON week – 11 14 June
- Monitoring Committee 11 / 12 June
- ESPON Open Seminar
- Contact points – tbc
- Loughlinstown & Dublin Castle

# Urban Development – DGs meeting

- Housing and Urban Development
- Major regeneration projects in Ireland – housing as a central component (Limerick / Ballymun)
- Very ambitious but flawed
- Realisation now that holistic approach to urban development and regeneration is required





# Specific focus on Limerick Regeneration

- Largest city in mid-West
- Serviced by air, road, and rail
- Several large-scale housing estates – mono-tenure, physically isolated
- Acute deprivation
- Criminality
- Timing – project severely impacted by economic downturn
- Funding / managing expectations – major challenges
- Share our experience AND learn from yours
- Other participants: academic experts, senior staff from Local Authorities, community perspective



# Urban Development – DG's meeting

- Reference framework for Sustainable Cities
- ERDF Housing and Best Practice Studies – updates and presentations from Commission and preliminary analysis
- Joint programming initiative – Urban Europe
- Link between urban research and urban policy



# Further details

- Will circulate more detail as Presidency approaches
- Enjoy Cyprus Presidency until then!

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