IRISH CENTRAL BORDER AREA NETWORK (ICBAN) LTD. (R.O.I./N.I.)

Member of AEBR since 1997

(Region 62 on the AEBR map “Cross-Border Cooperation Areas 2007”)

FULL NAME

Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) Ltd.

INFORMATION WHICH COUNTRIES/REGIONS/AREAS ARE COVERED

ICBAN is one of three local authority led cross border networks working in the Ireland/Northern Ireland border area. Membership is made up of 10 local authorities, 5 from either side of the central border region, namely: Armagh City & District, Cookstown District, Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough, Fermanagh District and Omagh District Councils in Northern Ireland and Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan and Sligo County Councils in the Republic of Ireland

Geographically the area covers just under 16,000 sq Km and has a population of 600,000.

Mission Statement:

ICBAN will continue to improve the quality of life and prosperity of the Central Border Region by creating a dynamic model of best practice and partnership in Cross Border Development.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF MEMBERS

In 1995 ICBAN was established as a network of councillors from the central Ireland/Northern Ireland border area with one common aim: to respond to the unique economic and social needs of the central border region and is recognized as a conduit for the articulation of issues of shared concern within the region.

The Management Board of ICBAN is made up of elected representatives chosen by their own Councils. Each of ICBAN’s 10 member Councils nominate 2 councillors onto the Board and ICBAN recognises the importance of cross-party and cross-community balance.

YEAR OF FOUNDATION

1995

YEAR OF JOINING AEBR

1997
DESCRIPTION OF MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS UP TO NOW

Under the INTERREG IIIA Programme, the 70 projects implemented by ICBAN ranged in theme from tourism to agriculture to education and saw 23 million euros invested into the central border region. To download a user friendly brochure featuring these projects please visit here; http://www.icban.com/uploads/final%20brochure.pdf

In addition to its INTERREG IIIA implementing role ICBAN also played a lead role in major infrastructure projects worth €10m across the region, both north and south.

ICBAN self implemented special projects thanks to various EU funds to the tune of just under €1million. More information on these projects can be found here. http://www.icban.com/contentsub2.asp?ID=5&GroupSub=0

It has also played a crucial role in facilitating regional initiatives aimed at addressing the strategic needs of the region in terms of sustainable economic, social and cultural development through partnership, lobbying and supporting initiatives.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE FUTURE

ICBAN aims to continue providing a platform for local authorities and other stakeholders to engage in cross border work and to be a ‘champion’ of cross border cooperation. ICBAN’s central motivating theme is that of building a vision for a region which is no longer peripheral in an island economy, but a truly central region which has the capacity to play a strong role & deliver results for both the Northern Ireland and Irish economies.

INTERREG IVA Lead Partner:

ICBAN as a ‘Lead Partner’ currently provides technical and administrative leadership to its member councils in relation to accessing and implementing funds, estimated at €15 million for the Central Border Region under the INTERREG IVA Programme for Ireland/Northern Ireland 2007-2013.

Central Border Region Spatial Planning Initiative:

ICBAN has received €1.6 million to co-ordinate and implement a strategic initiative aimed at developing a framework for effective, good practice-based spatial development approaches to the region. This initiative will benefit all areas of the region, through targeting key future investment priorities. It will also deliver a programme of capacity building and networking for elected representatives.

ICBAN will continue to facilitate and service a number of key regional policy working groups which aim to promote the needs of the region:

- Roads to Opportunity Working Group
- Central Border Region Telecomms Working Group
- Cross Border Social Inclusion Working Group
- Spatial Planning Working Group
YEARLY MAIN EVENTS

ICBAN hold their AGM every October. Management Board meetings take place on a monthly basis and 2 networking events are held per year for elected representatives and key stakeholders from across the region.

NAME OF PRESIDENT/VICE-PRESIDENT/SECRETARY GENERAL

Chairperson: Cllr Winston Bennett, Cavan County Council
Vice Chairperson: Cllr Robert Turner, Armagh City and District Council

CONTACT DETAILS

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1 OR 2 PHOTOS ON SPECIAL PLACES IN THE REGION (BORDER CROSSINGS ETC.)

Coastline of counties Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo
July 2006, ICBAN played host to the AEBR Executive Committee meeting

Map of ICBAN

Map of the ICBAN region and with picture of the border where Counties Fermanagh and Cavan meet.