



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION IRISH BRANCH
(IN CONJUNCTION WITH NUI GALWAY AND THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION)**

**PLANNING FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT:
THE NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK AS A ROADMAP FOR
IRELAND'S FUTURE?**

Friday 9 September 2016, NUI Galway

Confirmed invited speakers:

- Prof. Leonie Janssen-Jansen, Professor of Land Use Planning, Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- Mr. Peter Mehlbye, former Director of the EU ESPON Programme and former advisor to the Department of the Environment on the National Spatial Strategy
- Prof. Markku Sotarauta, University of Tampere, Finland



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

Theme:

The island of Ireland is on the cusp of an unprecedented period of historical importance with the population of the island set to finally bridge the gap of population loss which arose through the Great Famine some 160 years ago. Pre-famine Ireland had one of the densest populations in Europe and the century following the famine was marked by a population decline which created a largely rural population with low densities across the island, most noticeably in what is now the Republic.

Current trends suggest that the next 30 years could see the Republic's population reach up to 6.5 million while Northern Ireland's population will top 2 million. The island and both jurisdictions need to plan for such growth. This is going to require an enormous shift in thinking in how and where people live, work, recreate and travel. The development pressures arising, along with the need to address development legacies from the past require innovative and long-term thinking if both jurisdictions are to avoid unnecessary congestion, inadequate housing provision as well as meeting the hugely challenging environment of change from the international arena. In the Republic efforts are underway to develop a new National Planning Framework (NPF) while the Northern Ireland Government is also looking to address the Region's oncoming growth. Is it possible that both are finally beginning to grapple with the need for long term planning underpinned by an effective island-wide investment programme which will equip both urban and rural communities to meet this oncoming dynamic policy environment?

Marking the development of the National Planning Framework the Regional Studies Association Irish Branch is using its national conference to, amongst others, look at the many challenges and possible initiatives which would help position the island to confront such pressures. We will examine best international practice in spatial planning and will look at what should be at the heart of Irish regional development and planning policy so that the growth envisaged will, finally, equip the people across the island to have a real understanding of current spatial processes and what vision for Ireland should be at the cornerstone of local, regional and national development over the next 30 years.

Keynote Speakers:

Markku Sotarauta



Dr. Markku Sotarauta is professor of regional studies in School of Management at the University of Tampere, Finland. In 2011-2013, he served as the founding Dean of the School of Management and, in 2009-2010, as the last Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administration. In 2008 he was appointed as a Visiting Professor in the Newcastle University Business School (UK) for a three year period.

Professor Sotarauta specialises in leadership, innovation systems, and institutional entrepreneurship in city and regional development. He has published widely on these issues in international journals and edited books. His latest publications include 'Leadership and the city: Power, strategy and networks in the making of knowledge cities', published by Routledge, and 'Governance, Agency and Place Leadership: Lessons from a Cross National Analysis' (with Andrew Beer) published in Regional Studies. Professor Sotarauta has worked with the Finnish Parliament, many Finnish ministries as well as cities and regions both in Finland and beyond.

Professor Sotarauta will present a paper dealing with Place Leadership and Governance.

Peter Mehlbye



Peter Mehlbye was for 14 years Director for the ESPON Coordination Unit and later the ESPON EGTC. Since the start of ESPON in 2002 he has headed the development of the current pan-European knowledge base. Peter Mehlbye has by 1 July 2016 ended his director engagement with ESPON and decided to continue as semi-retired senior advisor and consultant offering his extensive experience and insight in territorial dynamics, strategies and policy making.

Before ESPON, Peter worked at the European Commission, DG Regional Policy, being involved in policy concepts for EU regional policy, the European Spatial Development Perspective, defining the transnational strand of INTERREG and the test phase leading to ESPON. Before entering into European cooperation he worked for more than 10 years for the Danish Government as Head of Unit for national spatial development, regional and local planning, regional policy and international cooperation. He led a special task force developing a National Spatial Strategy “Denmark towards 2018”. By education Peter holds a master degree in Economics and a master degree in Architecture, specialised in national and regional development and planning.

Peter Mehlby's paper will deal with the European perspective and national cases.

Leonie Janssen-Jansen



Prof. Dr. Leonie Janssen-Jansen (1975) is professor of Land Use Planning at the Department of Environmental Sciences, Wageningen University, the Netherlands. Before being appointed full professor in 2015 she was associate professor Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Amsterdam. From 2010-2012, she was President of the International Academic Association on Planning, Law and Property Rights (PLPR), an academic association to promote interdisciplinary and cross-national exchange between academics in planning, law and real estate studies. She has hold a visiting professorship at the University of Ulster at the School of the Built Environment from 2011-2015. Her current research focus is on metropolitan solutions, land management, property development, urban transformation, smart growth, regional governance and planning, and planning and law.

Leonie Janssen-Jansen's paper is titled "Taking national planning seriously: a challenged planning agenda in the Netherlands".

Provisional Conference Programme and Speakers

09:00 Registration

09:30 Opening and welcome (Chris van Egeraat and Speaker to be confirmed)

09:45 Plenary Session - National Planning Framework

Paul Hogan (Department of HPC&LG) An update on the National Planning Framework

10:05 Parallel session 1.A - Projections

Edgar Morgenroth (ESRI) Prospects for Irish Regions
Paul Kilgarriff, Cathal O'Donoghue, Jason Loughrey (MU & Teagasc) Census 2016: 2016 & 2021 local area projections
Brian Hughes (DIT) Indicators of agglomeration

Parallel session 1.B - Infrastructure and Housing

David O'Connor (DIT) Whatever happened to the smarter travel policy?
William Lavelle (Sout Dublin Co Co) The case for aligning future capital spending with the NPF
Kerry Agnew Ronan Lyons (TCD) The Impact of Employment on House Prices: Detailed Evidence from FDI in Ireland

11:20 Coffee

11:50 Parallel session 2.A

Jerry Mehigan (Acad. of Engineering) The Atlantic City Regions: development & connectivity:
William Brady (UCC) Territorial development and the NPF agenda: Ireland's second-tier city regions

Parallel session 2.B - Industry

Justin Doran (UCC) A spatial analysis of firm death during the financial crisis
Sean O'Connor and Eleanor Doyle (UCC) Specialisation, diversity and sector employment patterns of Irish regions

12:40 Lunch (Sponsored by College of Arts and School of Geography and Archaeology, NUIG)

13:35 Plenary Session - International perspectives

Peter Mehlbye (Former ESPON) European perspective and national cases - sponsored by DHPC&LG and SERA
Leonie Janssen (Wageningen University) The Case of the Netherlands (Sponsored by Whitaker Institute)
Markku Sotarauta (University of Tampere) Place Leadership and Governance - sponsored by WDC

15:20 Coffee

15:40 Parallel session 3.A

Brendan O'Keefe (MIC) Local development, service provision, rural vibrancy – endogenous responses and perspectives
Patrick Collins & Aisling Murtagh (NUIG) Tailoring approaches to creative sector development in peripheral European regions

Parallel session 3.B

Louis Nwagi (DIT) Humane social approach to local and regional development. A case example of Curitiba
Sean O Riordan (SO&A) Spatial planning and the need for institutional change

16:30 Panel Discussion (Chair Chris van Egeraat)

17:00 Closing

Registration

It is possible to register for the conference online at

<http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com/register.html>

Please note that there is a €70 fee for attending the conference and this includes lunch. Payments are processed via PayPal.

Conference updates

Updates on the conference will be available on the RSA-Irish Branch website at <http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com/> It is encouraged to subscribe to the RSA-Irish Branch's newsletter to have updates delivered to your e-mail as they become available as well as news of other RSA events.

It is possible to subscribe to the newsletter at

<http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com/mailling-list-and-newsletter.html>

Any queries regarding registration should be sent to

justin.doran@ucc.ie

The RSA-Irish Branch would like to acknowledge the support of the following:

College of Arts, Social Science and Celtic Studies, NIUG

Department of Housing Planning, Community and Local Government

School of Geography and Archaeology, NIUG

The Suthern and Eastern Regional Assembly

The Western Development Commission

Whitaker Institute, NUIG

Venue:

The venue for the event is 'the View' in Aras na MacLeinn, NUI Galway. A map of the campus is provided below with Aras na MacLeinn marked as number 10:



An interactive campus map is available at:

<https://www.nuigalway.ie/campus-map/>

Information on parking is available from the following site:

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/media/nuigalwayie/businessandindustry/files/2015-NUI-Galway-Entrances-and-Parking.pdf>

Parking on the NUI Galway campus is limited.

Accommodation

Information on accommodation can be found using the links below. The rates are a guide and may not apply for the dates of the conference:

<http://rsa-ireland.weebly.com/uploads/6/9/6/0/6960312/accommodation-galway-v2-march-2016.pdf>