

# REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION (Irish Branch)

## E-NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3, February 2008

Welcome to the third issue of the Regional Studies Association (RSA) e-newsletter. A new development for the Irish Branch of the Association, this e-newsletter serves as a way to highlight conferences, events, publications and other developments in the broad regional policy area. Contact details are included below.

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## 1. About the Association

The Regional Studies Association is a learned society interested in regional development, policy and research. The Association carries out a range of activities including:

- publishing a journal, newsletter and books;
- organising conferences and other meetings; and
- establishing and maintaining a branch and international section network.

It has an international membership of individuals, corporate organisations and students.

The Irish Branch was formed to provide a forum to discuss regional issues in Ireland.

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## 2. Branch AGM and Lecture (February 2008)

### **ADVANCE NOTICE – A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

The Irish branch of the RSA will hold its annual general meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm. The AGM will last for 20-30 minutes and will be followed by a lecture running from 6.30-7.45pm.

### **Lecture details:**

The lecture will be given by Professor Rob Kitchin, Director of the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. Rob will speak about the recently released '*Atlas of the Island of Ireland: Mapping Social and Economic Change*'.

The release of this atlas marks an important development for Irish regional studies/policy and provides for the first time a set of full colour, detailed maps and cartograms for a range of variables across the whole island of Ireland. Previously, such maps have been difficult to produce because data are often incompatible due to differences in data collection across jurisdictions. The Atlas provides a fascinating insight into population, housing, transport and the economy across the island and how these have changed since 1991.

**Full details including lecture title and venue will be circulated to the RSA branch mailing list (those who receive this newsletter) two weeks in advance of the event.**

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### 3. RSA News

#### BEST WISHES FOR 2008

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy New Year and every best wish for 2008. The Committee would also like to thank you for your support during the past year – whether through becoming a member of the organisation, attending RSA events or taking time out of your busy schedules to read / circulate our e-newsletter. We look forward to your continued support in the year ahead.

#### NEW WEBSITE

The website of the Irish Branch of the RSA can be accessed at: [www.regionalstudies.ie](http://www.regionalstudies.ie)  
Suggestions on the site's continued development is welcomed – as is relevant text! The Association's general website can be accessed at: [www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk](http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk)

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### 4. RSA Annual Membership

It's that time of year again – time to renew (or apply) for membership of the Regional Studies Association. The RSA is an international association with branches throughout the world, including Ireland. Membership is paid centrally to the RSA head office in Seaford UK.

For the year 2008, membership costs are: Individual £74 (€113); Student £35 (€54); Associate Membership £56 (€85); Corporate £152 (€213). Further details and application forms can be found on the RSA international website: [www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk](http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk)

Membership offers many benefits and these include:

- Nine issues of the international journal REGIONAL STUDIES (printed version)
- Four issues of REGIONS: THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION (printed version)
- Three issues of SPATIAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (printed version)
- A CD containing the issues from the previous 5 years of REGIONAL STUDIES.
- The ability to participate in any local Branch or Section activities
- Discount available to other Routledge publications
- The ability to list details and access information held in the International Regional Research Network Register - an on-line fully searchable research tool
- Access to the REGIONS AND CITIES BOOK SERIES: Book series published in association with Routledge
- Members' rate access to Association events (when offered)
- The ability to participate in the Association's listserv.

In addition, for individual, associate and student members there are the additional benefits of:

- A free electronic version of REGIONAL STUDIES (nine issues)
- A free electronic version of REGIONS: THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION (four issues)
- A free electronic subscription to a further listed Taylor and Francis house journal.

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## 5. New Publication: *Atlas of the Island of Ireland: Mapping Social & Economic Change*

Evidence-based spatial planning and the demand for high quality data on an all-island and regional basis are increasing. During 2007, the RSA (Irish Branch) and the International Centre for Local & Regional Development (ICLRD), in association with the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) and the National Centre for Geocomputation (NCG) held two seminars and one half-day conference on the topic of evidence-based spatial planning. The objective of the workshops was to identify priority indicators for all-island spatial planning. The conference, which was targeted at sectoral policy makers and practitioners as well as those engaged in spatial planning and analysis, reviewed the findings of the earlier seminars and provided the RSA and ICLR D with an opportunity to present the report they had prepared which listed the priority indicators that emerged as most viable and accessible for realistic island-wide spatial planning will provide the core focus of presentations and discussion at the conference. The findings of this research and debate has fed into the development of an all-island atlas. Developed by ICLR D, NIRSA and NCG, *The All-Island Atlas of Ireland: Mapping Social and Economic Change* provides a set of detailed full colour maps on population, housing, transport and the economy across the island and how these have changed since 1991. Such maps have traditionally been difficult to produce because data are often incompatible due to differences in data collection methods in the two jurisdictions. This publication was launched on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008 as part of ICLR D's third annual conference (further details below on this event).

**For further details contact:** Prof. Rob Kitchin, NIRSA & ICLR D at [rob.kitchin@nuim.ie](mailto:rob.kitchin@nuim.ie) or Justin Gleeson, NIRSA & ICLR D at [justin.gleeson@nuim.ie](mailto:justin.gleeson@nuim.ie)

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## 6. Other Upcoming Events

### • PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS/PAPERS

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**Seminar title:** "Knowledge and productivity growth in Europe"

**Date:** 13 March 2008

**Venue:** ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2

A presentation by Professor Mary O'Mahony of the University of Birmingham. No booking is necessary for this event. All welcome

**For further details contact:** Edgar Morgenroth at [edgar.morgenroth@esri.ie](mailto:edgar.morgenroth@esri.ie)

### • UPCOMING CONFERENCES

E-GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE 2008: ALLIANCE WITH USERS

**Date:** 11 February 2008

**Venue:** Brdo, Slovenia

Organised by the Slovenian government as part of the EU Presidency, this 1-day event is being organised within the framework of the 'e-government days' (11-13 February) which are designed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, ideas and future plans around e-government. This conference is aimed at policy-makers, high-level IT experts, academics and the private

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sector. Under the theme 'Alliance with Users', the conference will highlight the three policy priorities of the Slovenian Presidency in the area of e-government:

1. interoperability
2. e-Participation and e-Inclusion
3. reduction of administrative burdens.

All three elements are essential for better public administration

**For further details contact:** the event website at: <http://www.egov2008.gov.si/>

## THE FUTURE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND RURAL REGIONS

**Date:** 29 February 2008

**Venue:** Lillehammer, Norway

The Assembly of European Regions (AER) is organising this one-day conference on the future of rural development policy in order to debate and put forward concrete recommendations for EU rural development policy. It also aims to explore innovative tools and methods for diversifying yjr rural economy.

For further details see:

<http://www.a-e-r.org/events/regional-policies-committee/2008/conference-rural-development.html>

## DEVELOPING COMPETITIVE KNOWLEDGE-BASED REGIONAL ECONOMIES

**Date:** 17-19 March 2008

**Venue:** Sao Paulo, Brazil

Hosted every four years, the RSAI World Congress is an opportunity for scholars from all over the world to present their research and undertake field-trips. The theme of this year's event is World Integration, Emerging Countries, Lagging Regions and Sustainability. After many years of increased economic integration worldwide, new opportunities and challenges were posed for all countries; and regions with countries throughout the world have addressed these opportunities and challenges in different ways. Issues have arisen around regional convergence, regional inequality and regional concentration. Sustainability, socially, economically and environmentally, is also a very important aspect of this process

**For further details see:** <http://www.aber.fea.usp.br/rsai2008/new/html/event/event.asp>

## SUSTAINABILITY, SPACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

### THE UK-IRELAND PLANNING RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2008

**Date:** 18-20 March 2008

**Venue:** Queens University Belfast

Hosted for the first time in Ireland, this conference will provide an opportunity for leading national and international planning researchers to present and debate current issues in planning in a multidisciplinary and supportive environment. Themes tracks include planning theory, inclusion, diversity and social justice, urban and rural regeneration, sustainable communities, the challenge of climate change, and governance and policy. The programme will also include a number of local study tours; for example, Titanic Quarter, Cave Hill, and housing projects. Keynote speakers include: Professor Susan Owens OBE, Cambridge University; Frank McDonald, Environmental Editor, Irish Times; Oren Yiftachel, Ben-Gurion

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University of the Negev, Israel; and Dr. Julian Agyeman, Tufts University, Massachusetts. The standard registration fee is Stg£235.

**For further details contact:** Geraint Ellis, queens University Belfast at [g.ellis@qub.ac.uk](mailto:g.ellis@qub.ac.uk) or the conference secretary at [prc2008@qub.ac.uk](mailto:prc2008@qub.ac.uk)

## A SUBURBAN WORLD? GLOBAL DECENTRALISATION AND THE NEW METROPOLIS

**Date:** 6-8 April 2008

**Venue:** Reston, VA, USA

Hosted by Dr. Robert Lang and Dr. Paul Knox of Virginia Tech and Dr. Juliann Allison and Dr. Ed Blakely of the Centre for Sustainable Suburban Development, this 3-day event examines changing urban forms and the on-going challenges of sprawl, congestion and affordable housing. Particular attention will be paid to the changing demographics of the suburbs, gated communities, suburbs and sustainability, newburbia/newtowns and the concept of business in suburbia.

**For further details contact:** Katrin Anacker, Post Doctoral Fellow, Metropolitan Institute of Virginia Tech at [asuburbanworld@vt.edu](mailto:asuburbanworld@vt.edu)

### • FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME AND REGIONS OF KNOWLEDGE

The Seventh Framework Programme has published calls for proposals under its Capacities Programme. This includes the sub-programmes on, among others, 'Regions of Knowledge'. Under 'Regions of Knowledge, there are two calls: the first on the analysis, mentoring and integration of research agendas at local and regional level and the preparation of joint action plans, and the second on facilitating the emergence of new regional research driven clusters and the mutual exchange of information. The closing date for applications is the 14 March 2008 (Source: Irish Regions Office, 2007).

**For further details see:** [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)

#### ENTERPRISE IRELAND STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS

In November 2007, the 2008 Enterprise Ireland Student Enterprise Awards were launched. Celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, these awards offer third level students from all academic disciplines, across the Island of Ireland, to realise their entrepreneurial ambitions. Designed to foster and promote innovation and entrepreneurship, these awards are sponsored by Enterprise Ireland, Invest Northern Ireland and Cruickshank Intellectual Property attorneys. The awards are seen as an important springboard for Ireland's future entrepreneurs and business leaders; and a key part of the Island's drive towards a deeper knowledge economy.

Application forms are available online at: [www.enterprise-ireland.com/studentawards08](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com/studentawards08). The closing date for application is the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

**For further details contact:** Gillian Slattery, Enterprise Ireland at 061 429927 or by email at: [gillian.slattery@enterprise-ireland.com](mailto:gillian.slattery@enterprise-ireland.com)

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## APPLIED RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT (ARE) PROGRAMME

Significant research expertise in niche areas exists throughout the education sector, and recent years have seen an incremental increase in levels of postgraduate research taking place. The ARE Programme has been created to enhance the applied research capabilities of Institutes of Technology in areas of strategic importance; not only to the individual colleges but also to industry, both regionally and nationally. The Programme is being run on an open call basis with a total funding of €1.25 million available to each project over a 3-5 year timeframe. Projects funded under this Programme must generate regional economic activity, bring researchers into the relevant Institute of Technology, and result in the creation of a centre of excellence in the field of engineering, science or technology. Ten ARE research centres already exist across Ireland and these cover a broad range of research themes – high quality shellfish products, design management, biomedical marine research, marine food processing, etc. Each is directly contributing to regional development by the commercialisation of their applied research outputs. Programme guidelines can be downloaded from <http://www.enterpriseireland.com/PrinterFriendly/default.htm?curPostName=Applied%2>

**For further details contact:** Deirdre Brougham, Manager of the Applied Research Enhancement Programme at 021 4800233

**If you have a submission or suggestion on any upcoming events, seminars, presentations or conferences and would like them to be included in a future edition, please email [newsletter@regionalstudies.ie](mailto:newsletter@regionalstudies.ie)**

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## 7. Publications of Interest

### • BOOKS (incl. CHAPTERS)

**Title:** Cross-Border Tertiary Education: A Way towards Capacity Development

**Editor(s):** OECD

**Date Published:** August 2007

**Publisher details:** OECD with The World Bank

Cross-border higher education is emerging to become a fascinating but very complex phenomenon. The mobility of students, professors and knowledge is growing at an unprecedented pace. This mobility is both physical and virtual, and presents many new opportunities; namely increased access to higher education, strategic alliances between countries and regions, and expansion of human resource and institutional capacity. But there are also challenges arising from this 'new' mobility including elitism, lack of recognition of foreign qualifications and a potential increase in the number of rogue providers. This book investigates these opportunities and challenges and examines the concept of capacity building through cross-border higher education as a tool for development. Further details from: OECD at [www.oecd.org/documentprint/0,3455,fr\\_2649\\_33723\\_39169364\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/documentprint/0,3455,fr_2649_33723_39169364_1_1_1_1,00.html)

**Title:** Energy Policies of IEA Countries – Ireland: 2007 Review

**Editor(s):** IEA

**Date Published:** November 2007

**Publisher details:** IEA with OECD

Ireland's economic growth over the past 15 years has had strong effects on the energy sector. Due to increasing demand, Ireland has become increasingly dependent on international

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markets – oil, natural gas, etc. – and with rising prices, this has placed a heavy burden on the Irish economy. However, 2007 was a watershed year for energy policy in Ireland with the introduction of an all-island national electricity market. This review analyses the energy challenges facing Ireland and suggests solutions involving market reform and increasing energy efficiency. It highlights the need for greater R&D in renewable energy, and prioritising efficiency within the transport, office and construction sectors. A copy of this report can be ordered from: [http://www.iea.org/Textbase/publications/free\\_new\\_Desc.asp?PUBS\\_ID=1923](http://www.iea.org/Textbase/publications/free_new_Desc.asp?PUBS_ID=1923)

## • WORKING PAPERS/DOCUMENTS

**Title:** Overview of the Main Infrastructure Issues for Enterprise

**Author(s):** Forfás

**Date Published:** October 2007

This briefing note examines infrastructural needs, together with infrastructure priorities, for enterprise growth and development in Ireland. The main issues covered are energy, telecommunications, waste management, regional development, roads, rail, aviation, ports and water/wastewater; with the emphasis being placed on sustainability while at the same time increasing economic competitiveness. The note outlines recent developments in each of these areas and raises key issues in moving forward. Recurring messages across all sectors include being cost competitive, removing barriers, accelerated completion dates, and increasing connectivity. For further information contact Mary Twomey at [mary.twomey@forfas.ie](mailto:mary.twomey@forfas.ie)

**If you wish to have a recently published book/paper listed in this section of future newsletters, please e-mail details formatted as above to [newsletter@regionalstudies.ie](mailto:newsletter@regionalstudies.ie)**

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## 8. An Introduction to the West Regional Authority

In each addition of the e-newsletter we plan to briefly profile a body working in the area of regional policy in Ireland. Thanks to Jim McGovern and Christina Heneghan, West Regional Authority for their assistance in preparing this profile.

Established in January 1994, the West Regional Authority is one of eight Regional Authorities set up under the Local Government Act 1991 (Regional Authorities) (Establishment) Order 1993. Their key functions are:

1. Preparing Regional Planning Guidelines and Regional Economic and Social Strategies.
2. Reviewing, as appropriate, the Development Plans of the Local Authorities in the Region and, where relevant, the Development Plans of Local Authorities adjoining the Region; to consider the consistency of plans with one another and with the overall development needs of the Region.
3. Promoting coordination of public services and, where relevant, consideration by Public Authorities of the implications for, or the effect of, their decisions, activities or services on the Region.

The West Region constitutes the counties of Galway, Mayo and Roscommon, including Galway City. The Region is some 13,801 sq. km with a population of 414,277 (CSO 2006) – an increase of 34,000 since 2002. A combination of natural increase and inward migration has contributed to this overall regional population increase. It is projected that the West Region will grow to 527,228 by 2020.

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**MEMBERSHIP:** The membership of the West Regional Authority comprises 27 elected representatives nominated by the constituent local authorities from each of the counties, and one member from the Committee of the Regions. The office is based in Galway City.

**REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:** The West Region is a progressive and dynamic area, stimulated by high standards in education i.e. third level institutions and associated facilities. In turn, high employment levels are evident, with a strong presence of indigenous and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), particularly around Galway City. The west is attractive in terms of ease of access to local and foreign markets, back up Research & Development (R&D) facilities and a highly skilled labour force. The west boasts a high standard of living and good quality of life. The region is characterised by its strong and attractive natural environment, rich cultural and architectural heritage, Gaeltacht areas and the main centre of the West, Galway City, which serves a wide catchment area.

**GATEWAY AND HUBS:** Galway was designated a Gateway in the *National Spatial Strategy* and has a regional economic role providing for a diverse range of economic activities and service and employment opportunities; in particular in terms of education, healthcare, retail and service industries. Gateways were designated to build on areas of critical mass, infrastructure connectivity and competitiveness, in order to compete at the international level. In terms of infrastructure and connectivity, there are airports in both Galway and Knock, providing access to UK and Europe.

There are a number of substantial towns and villages scattered throughout the West Region, including the hub town of Tuam (grew by 979 persons from '02-'06) and the Castlebar-Ballina linked hub (grew by 1,110 from '02 -'06). Other towns of importance in the Region are Westport, Ballinasloe and Roscommon town. Inter-regional linkages and infrastructural development need to be advanced and improved; with the main issues in urban areas being the pressures from population growth (and the associated need for additional housing), increased traffic volumes on routes that are inadequate for such numbers, providing alternatives in the form of public transport, increased commuter services including park and ride facilities for those areas without rail, and water and wastewater pressures. Some of the smaller towns are also faced with challenges in regard to development and future needs. A key objective of Government and the Authority is to facilitate and promote employment opportunities in selected key towns in the region.

**REGIONAL PLANNING GUIDELINES:** The drawing up of Regional Planning Guidelines is required through the *Planning and Development Act 2000, Part II, Chapter III*. The *National Spatial Strategy*, published in 2002 also sets out a comprehensive statement in relation to regional development. The *Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2004-2016*, provide a 20-year strategic planning framework for development in the region, which considers future development for the region and an overall long-term strategy for the making of development plans and local area plans in the local authorities within the region.

**INVESTMENT PRIORITIES FOR THE REGION:** Within the West Region there are ongoing investments in the upgrading and increased provision of road and rail on routes identified in the Regional Planning Guidelines as important for the promotion of balanced regional development. This provides for improved and increased inter-connectivity both inter-regionally and intra-regionally. There are numerous projects and development investment priorities underway, too numerous to list by name, but they involve elements of the following: upgrading of water treatment and waste water disposal; the proposed development of Ardan in Galway to provide housing and services for 18,000 people by 2016; the Gateway Innovation Fund proposal; energy and broadband provision; improvement of the Gateway Bus and Rail Station; increasing services on commuter routes; increased services to the airports in the region; and the introduction of park and ride facilities.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENTS:** There are pressures also facing the Region's rural areas, through increasing numbers of dispersed rural dwellings, lack of service infrastructure and public

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transport and facilities provision. The areas in and around the towns and villages are generally experiencing an increase in population, whereas the more peripheral rural areas are experiencing a certain level of population decline. The diverse landscape and seascape of the rugged west coast with its series of off-shore islands promotes a diverse number of natural habitats - flora, fauna and aquatic life - in addition to the Shannon and its associated lakes to the east of the Region. The high amenity value of the Region also attracts reasonable levels of tourism. Improvement in linkages and inter-connectivity is critical to maintaining a vibrant and active tourist base; an important source of employment, particularly in the more remote areas of the Region. There is potential to further develop certain areas such as (a) agri-tourism, (b) specialised packages around food holidays, cycling holidays, and (c) some attractions with tourism potential which have not yet been developed to their full potential.

**Further Details** on the Authority and its work can be accessed via their website: [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie), Alternatively the Authority can be contacted by email at: [westrega@eircom.net](mailto:westrega@eircom.net)

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## 9. Regional Policy: What's New?

### ENVision

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently launched ENVision, a free interactive map viewer that provides environmental maps. Making EPA data more accessible, ENVision shows All EPA licensed IPPC and waste facilities, with each location being linked to a document outlining the full license information for that facility. It also provides Air Access Maps whereby site locations are shown against detailed orthophotography, soil and subsoil maps completed by Teagasc, and land cover data produced by the European Environment Agency. ENVision can be accessed at [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)

### SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOLS

An Integrated Project within the Sixth Framework Research Programme is developing science-based forecasting instruments to support decision-making on policies related to land-use in European regions. SENSOR is a 12million project involving 33 research partners from 15 European countries and its main objective is the development of the computer programme, SIAT – Sustainability Impact Assessment Tools. Through these tools, policy-makers can 'try out' different policy strategies in order to gain an idea of their likely impact. The user can enter a range of policy cases and scenario perspectives ('business as usual', high growth, low growth) into SIAT which will then indicate the impact of the different choices on multi-functional land-use and sustainability. Further information on SENSOR can be downloaded at: [http://www.zalf.de/home\\_ip-sensor/about/index.htm](http://www.zalf.de/home_ip-sensor/about/index.htm)

### CROSS BORDER GROWTH AND INNOVATION HIGH ON BUSINESS AGENDA

The first of four surveys to be carried out by the new BT / InterTradeIreland Business Monitor has found that nearly two-thirds of businesses across the island of Ireland expect growth in cross-border cooperation in the next five years. It is envisaged that the BT / InterTradeIreland Business Monitor will provide insights into business confidence, and will ultimately become a tool for formulating strategy and policy. Further details on the Business Monitor and its survey findings can be accessed at:

<http://www.intertradeireland.com/module.cfm/opt/25/area/News/page/News/id/263>

### IRELAND ANNOUNCES FIRST CARBON BUDGET

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley T.D., announced Ireland's first carbon budget in December 2007. Key aspects of this budget

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included setting minimum energy efficiency standards for light bulbs, introducing a mandatory environment labelling system for new cars and establishing a new emissions-based system for motor tax. Hailed as the beginning of a new era where climate change moves to the heart of government decision-making, John Gormley stated that “the economy and the environment cannot be separated”. For further details see: [www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie)

## **NEW R&D INFO SERVICE FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES**

CORDIS, the EU’s online information service for research and development, has launched a new ‘Regional Gateway’ service for local and regional authorities. Through this service, regions can promote their local research activities and infrastructure in the broader European context. As well as providing geographically-tailored information, it also provides links to additional EU-supported resources, initiatives and services which assist local actors. Local and regional authorities are encouraged to send regional news, information on research activities and R&D infrastructure services to CORDIS for inclusion on the new service (Source: Irish Regions Office, 2007). For further information email [regions@cordis.europa.eu](mailto:regions@cordis.europa.eu) or see: [http://cordis.europa.eu/regions/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/regions/home_en.html)

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## **10. Contacting the RSA Newsletter**

This is the third e-newsletter of the Irish Branch of the Regional Studies Association. Given the success of the e-newsletter in this, its inaugural year, it is planned to continue this publication in 2008. There will be three e-Newsletters produced during 2008 and these will be circulated as follows:

Mid-April  
Mid-July  
Mid-November.

**If you have any queries regarding the newsletter, or any comments, suggestions or submissions for future editions (incl. details on upcoming events, publications of interest, job vacancies), please email [newsletter@regionalstudies.ie](mailto:newsletter@regionalstudies.ie)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** the closing date for receipt of submissions is the first day of the month of the next issue.

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## **11. Membership of the RSA**

Membership of the Association is open to all individuals and organisations with an interest in the analysis and development of regional policy.

The benefits of membership include nine issues of the international journal *Regional Studies*, four issues of *Regions: The Newsletter of the Regional Studies Association* (overall body), three issues of *Spatial Economic Analysis*, discount on other Routledge publications, access to Association events, and ability to participate in any local branch or section activities.

Membership is based on the calendar year. Details of membership rates (individual, associate, student or corporate), together with a registration form, can be downloaded at:

[www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/members/benefits.asp](http://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/members/benefits.asp)

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## 12. Current Irish Committee Members

The current RSA committee for 2007 are: Micheál Collins, TCD/IPA (Chairman); Chris Van Egeraat, NUI Maynooth (Vice-Chairman); Patrick Collins, NUI Galway (Hon. Secretary); Edgar Morgenroth, ESRI (Hon. Treasurer); John McDonagh, NUI Galway; Des McCafferty, Mary Immaculate College, UL; Stephen Walsh, DIT; Mark Scott, UCD; Caroline Creamer, ICLRD/NIRSA; Davis Hogan, Shannon Development; Gillian Slattery, Enterprise Ireland; David Meredith, Teagasc; Ronnie O'Toole, Forfas.

The following are the contact details of the Association. We strongly encourage communication by e-mail.

RSA Chairman Micheál Collins: [chairman@regionalstudies.ie](mailto:chairman@regionalstudies.ie)

RSA Secretary Patrick Collins: [secretary@regionalstudies.ie](mailto:secretary@regionalstudies.ie)

Newsletter: [newsletter@regionalstudies.ie](mailto:newsletter@regionalstudies.ie)

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## 13. Joining/Leaving the RSA (Irish Branch) Mailing List

If you wish to have your details added to the RSA mailing list please e-mail the following address with the word "ADD" in the subject line: [mailinglist@regionalstudies.ie](mailto:mailinglist@regionalstudies.ie)

To have your details removed from the RSA mailing list please e-mail the following address with the word "REMOVE" in the subject line: [mailinglist@regionalstudies.ie](mailto:mailinglist@regionalstudies.ie)

The RSA updates its mailing list approximately once every six weeks.

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A pdf copy of this newsletter is available on the RSA website at [www.regionalstudies.ie](http://www.regionalstudies.ie)