

# **REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION (Irish Branch)**

## **E-NEWSLETTER**

**ISSUE 8, August 2009**

Welcome to the eight issue of the Regional Studies Association (RSA) e-newsletter. This e-newsletter serves as a way for the Irish Branch of the Association to highlight conferences, events, publications and other developments of interest 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. RSA News

### WEBSITE UPDATE

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)

### RSA ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2010

The RSA Annual International Conference 2010, on the theme of “Regional Responses and Global Shifts: Actors, Institutions and Organisations” will take place in Pécs, Southern Hungary from 24th - 26th May 2010. Abstract submissions have been open since Mid-August.

### REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION PRIZES FOR 2009

The Regional Studies Association has now closed the call for nominations for its 2009 prizes. The Association administers prizes recognizing achievements in the following categories:

- Best Book
- Taught Master
- Early Career
- Editors' Choice
- Overall Contribution To The Field Of Regional Studies
- Best referees prize

The winners will be announced during the Association's President's Lunch on the 5th October 2009 at the House of Lords.

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### 3. Upcoming Events

- **PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS/PAPERS**

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**Seminar title:** "Lessons from Migration after EU Enlargement"

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009

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

**Time:** 16.00

A presentation by Professor Klaus Zimmermann, IZA, DIW, University of Bonn, based on the forthcoming book (September 2009), EU Labor Markets after Post-Enlargement Migration, edited by Martin Kahanec and Klaus Zimmermann, Berlin: Springer.

**Seminar title:** "The Public-Private Sector Pay Gap in Ireland: What Lies Beneath?"

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009

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

**Time:** 16.00

A presentation by Elish Kelly, Seamus McGuinness and Philip O'Connell of ESRI.

**For further details** see [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie)

UCD SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

UCD School of Economics have announced the following speakers for their forthcoming research seminar series:

#### **September**

Friday 11th: Regis Renault (THEMA)

Friday 18th: Joao Santos Silva (Essex)

Friday 25th: Tuvana Pastine (NUI Maynooth)

#### **October**

Friday 2nd: Eric Strobl (IZA)

Friday 9th: Hartmut Egger (Zuerich)

Friday 23rd: Rachel Griffith (IFS)

Friday 30th: Sonia Bhalotra (Bristol)

#### **November**

Friday 13th: Ali Naghavi

Friday 27th: Todd Sorensen (UC-Riverside)

#### **December**

Friday 4th: Rene Lindstaedt (SUNY)

**For further details** see <http://www.ucd.ie/economics/news/>

- **UPCOMING CONFERENCES/ CALL FOR PAPERS**

"Budget Perspectives 2010" Conference

**Date:** 13 October 2009

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

The Economic and Social Research Institute and the Foundation for Fiscal Studies (FFS) are holding the twelfth "Budget Perspectives" Conference on Tuesday, 13th October 2009. The Conference will examine some of the key economic and public finance issues that need to be considered in framing policy for the forthcoming Budget and the medium term. Papers at the conference present research findings and draw out the implications for public policy, particularly budgetary policy. The attendance typically includes representatives of the social partners, high-level officials from government departments and others involved in debate on policy issues. Further details will be available from [www.esri.ie](http://www.esri.ie) nearer the time.

Health Economics Association of Ireland (HEAI)

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009

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

**Submission Date for Abstracts:** 4th September 2009

The Health Economics Association of Ireland (HEAI) holds regular meetings where work in progress by participants is presented and discussed. The papers presented typically focus on issues of relevance to Irish health policy makers, applying health economic techniques to Irish and European data. The next HEAI meeting will be held at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009, 12.30 – 5pm. The HEAI are currently seeking submissions for the next HEAI meeting. If you would like to be considered, please submit a short abstract to either Anne Nolan ([anne.nolan@esri.ie](mailto:anne.nolan@esri.ie)) or Samantha Smith ([samantha.smith@esri.ie](mailto:samantha.smith@esri.ie)) by Friday 4th September 2009.

Dublin Economics Workshop Policy Conference

**Date:** November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2pm to 5.30pm

**Venue:** Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin

The third DEW conference will take place on November 2<sup>nd</sup> between 2pm and 5.30pm in the Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Golden Lane in Dublin city centre. The conference continues the general themes from previous events surrounding the Irish economic position. Speakers to include David Blanchflower (Dartmouth College), Colm Harmon (UCD), John McHale (NUIG), Patrick Honohan (TCD), Karl Whelan (UCD). A full agenda will be posted on the website [www.Irisheconomy.ie](http://www.Irisheconomy.ie) in September and at the UCD Geary Institute and Irish Economic Association sites. Due to the usual issues of venue size and logistics we would appreciate if people could register as soon as possible by emailing [emma.barron@ucd.ie](mailto:emma.barron@ucd.ie)

## Irish Social Sciences Platform (ISSP) Annual Conference 2009: "Social Science Research and Policy Making: Bridging the Divide"

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

**Venue:** National University of Ireland Galway

Recent upheavals in the global economy have fundamentally challenged conventional thinking with respect to society and business. Significant structural changes are emerging that will shape the manner in which policy makers conceptualize and respond effectively to sustaining communities, balanced regional and rural development and the knowledge society. In an open economy sustaining social and economic growth will be an increasing complex task given the advances in science and technology, new collaborative models of innovation, the increasing influence of oil producing countries and Asian central banks and the changing role of management and governance. Core assumptions about society and business have been fundamentally challenged by the current economic climate.

This context presents challenges and opportunities for social science research as there is often an uneasy relationship between researchers and policy makers. Research is typically inspired by a desire to explain and understand and policy makers are usually concerned with quick solutions to current problems. There is agreement that research should have a significant role in policy making. We can, however, ask whether the way social science research is organized and presented can be effectively used by policy makers and we can also ask whether the policy making process is making the best use of researchers skills and knowledge. This conference will stimulate discussion and debate on these questions and suggest ways in which the use of social science research in policy making might be improved through the sharing of information, ideas and perspectives.

NUI Galway now invites paper abstract submissions that will explore this theme (300-500 words) by 7th September 2009. Further details are available at [www.conference.ie](http://www.conference.ie)

**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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## 4. Funding Opportunities

### SCIENCE FOUNDATION IRELAND RESEARCH FRONTIERS PROGRAM 2010

Proposals for the SFI Research Frontiers Programme 2010 are now invited. The SFI Research Frontiers Programme (RFP) supports research in framework and/or integrative fields of science, engineering and mathematics that impacts diverse fields and that contributes educational benefit that will advance national scientific progress. RFP awards may be up to €220,000 (total direct costs) and are of 4 years duration. The objectives of the Research Frontiers Programme are:

- To support innovative, cutting-edge and internationally competitive research in a broad range of disciplines in Science, Mathematics and Engineering.
- To establish a mechanism of looking forward to allow for changes in strategic areas in the future.

- To provide a broad base of support to underpin the strategic areas of Biotechnology, Information & Communications Technology, and Sustainable Energy & Energy-Efficient Technologies.
- To provide advanced education and training for young researchers in a wide variety of areas.
- To provide support to early career investigators.

**For further details see:**

[www.sfi.ie/RFP](http://www.sfi.ie/RFP)

## ROYAL IRISHT ACADEMY POSTDOCTORAL MOBILITY GRANTS SCHEME 2009

The Royal Irish Academy is offering grants for postdoctoral researchers to support short visits to any country, to support primary research in any area during 2010. Applications should demonstrate that Academy funds are sought for a clearly defined discrete piece of research, which will have an identifiable outcome following the completion of the Academy funded component of the project. Applications are open to all researchers who have obtained a PhD (viva must have been passed by the application deadline) and who are within the first seven years postdoctoral at the start of the term of the grant period. The closing date for the receipt of completed applications is Friday 9th October 2009.

**For further details and to download an application form please visit:**

<http://www.ria.ie/international/funding/index.html>.

**If you are aware of, or your organisation is responsible for the administration of, funding opportunities and you would like them to be included in a future edition, please email [newsletter@regionalstudies.ie](mailto:newsletter@regionalstudies.ie)**

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## 5. Publications of Interest

- **BOOKS (incl. CHAPTERS)**

**Title:** Waste Management in Ireland: Benchmarking Analysis and Policy Priorities

**Author(s):** Forfás

**Date Published:** August 2009

**Publisher details:** Forfás

The availability of waste management services and facilities and the associated costs continue to be a key competitiveness issue for enterprise in Ireland. This report reviews Ireland's comparative performance across key waste management indicators, identifies significant developments in waste management in Ireland, and examines the policy issues that need to be addressed to enable Ireland meet the waste management needs of enterprise. The Forfás report advocates that a decision on the future regulatory structure for the waste sector should be taken that clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the State in the regulation and provision of waste management services at national, regional, and local level. Other policy priorities identified by the report include the need to coordinate multiple regional waste management plans, to reduce planning lead times and to ensure that waste services are competitively priced. Due to cost implications for business, the report recommends against further significant increases in the landfill levy and the introduction of an incineration levy, or a cap on incineration, until such time as adequate new alternative waste treatment facilities are operational. The report recommends the need for policy to focus on how favoured waste treatment solutions can be made more competitive. The report also recognises the need for the

State support agencies and enterprise to continue to work together to ensure that Ireland matches comparator countries in reducing the amount of waste generated.

**For further details see:**

<http://www.forfas.ie/publication/search.jsp?ft=/publications/featuredpublications/title,4538,en.php>

- **REPORTS**

**Title:** "A Gravity Model Approach to Estimating the Expected Volume of North/South Trade"

**Author(s):** Edgar Morgenroth

**Date Published:** May 2009

**Publisher details:** InterTrade Ireland

This report aims to assess whether aggregate and sectoral cross-border trade between Ireland and Northern Ireland is at, above or below the expected level. The deviations of actual trade from the expected level is estimated using a gravity model which accounts for the key factors that determine the level of trade flows between trading partners. The model is estimated using a large panel data set covering the 42 most important trading partners of Ireland. The key finding is that once important economic and geographic factors are taken into account, the level of trade between the two jurisdictions is below the expected level. This finding applies to both total manufacturing trade and the trade for a number of sectors. It is shown that the gap between the actual and the expected level of trade is increasing. The report also highlights a number of possible explanations regarding why trade between the two jurisdictions is below the expected level. The findings may be explained, at least partly, by the fact that the economies of the two jurisdictions are quite different. Ireland for example, is more outwardly orientated, which is related to the degree to which multinational enterprises dominate a number of sectors.

**For further details see:**

<http://www.intertradeireland.com/module.cfm/opt/29/area/Publications/page/Publications/>

- **PUBLISHED PAPERS/WORKING PAPERS**

**Title:** Spatial Distribution of Manufacturing Activity and its Determinants: A Comparison of Three Small European Countries

**Author(s):** Barrios S., Bertinelli L., Strobl E., and A.C. Teixeira

**Date Published:** June 2009

**Publication details:** Regional Studies Vol 43.5, pages 721-738

This paper investigates and compares the spatial distribution of manufacturing activity and its determinants in Belgium, Ireland, and Portugal using micro-level datasets that provide comparable cross-country evidence. In the Irish case, information is drawn from the Forfas Employment Survey. The paper's objective is to provide a rigorous analysis of whether, how, and why agglomeration patterns of similar sectors differ across the three European countries under consideration. Some similarities are found between Portugal and Belgium, but Ireland exhibits significantly different patterns in the spatial distribution of its manufacturing activity. Moreover, there is some evidence that forward and backward linkages, research and development activity, and labour market pooling of skilled labour can be important determinants of agglomeration, although this crucially depends on the country examined.

**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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## 6. An Introduction to the South West Regional Authority



### Údarás Réigiúnach an Iar-Dheiscirt South West Regional Authority

#### Overview

The South West region, covering Cork and Kerry, which currently has a population of 645,000 people, approximately 15% of the national population, has performed very strongly in terms of population growth and employment creation. This is a trend which is hoped to be continued, once the present economic stagnation has eased. Metropolitan Cork, which is the Cork gateway with a current population of 273,000 is at the heart of the region and is a strong economic driver for the wider south west. Much of the regional growth has occurred within the gateway and undoubtedly the regional statistics are significantly skewed by the economic strength of the gateway as compared to other areas of the region. The region continues to deliver the highest GVA per worker in the republic and has achieved higher than national average growth rates over the past ten years. Manufacturing output is the highest of any of the Irish regions and the south west had the lowest unemployment level of any region in the country in 2007. The region is exceptionally strong in the pharmaceutical, food, ICT and tourism sectors. The south west has an excellent higher educational infrastructure with University College Cork, the Institute of Technology Tralee and the Cork Institute of Technology providing a very wide range of courses and research facilities. Within the Third Level Institutions there are a range of specialised research institutes, many of which focus strongly on regional sectoral strengths. In preparing the Regional Planning Guidelines for 2010 – 2020, a continued positive growth path is envisaged and regional population is targeted to grow to a level of between 795,000 and 816,900 by 2022. Within this target, the Cork gateway is planned to grow to a population level of 381,500, the Mallow hub to 22,000 and the Tralee/Killarney hub to 53,000.

#### The Regional Authority and its work

The regional authority is comprised of 24 members, representing the three principal local authorities in the region. The authority meets monthly and addresses a wide range of issues of regional relevance. Since the foundation of the authority in 1994, the members have succeeded in taking a very good overview of issues, challenges and opportunities at the regional level, rather than taking a local approach. This has led to very positive support for the work of the regional authority across the three local authority areas. Two members of the regional authority sit on the European Committee of the Regions and their role is supported as required by the authority. The principal statutory role of the regional authority relates to the preparation and implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines. The initial set of RPGs was adopted in 2004 for a period of six years. Work is now underway on the Review of the Guidelines covering the period from 2010 to 2022. Part of the preparation process involved the publication of an issues paper on the future development of the region, a public submissions phase and the Director's report on the submissions received. All of these documents can be downloaded from the regional authority's website [www.swra.ie](http://www.swra.ie) where additional information is available. An important change in legislation relating to Regional Planning Guidelines is contained in the Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2009, where at Section 13, it proposes an amendment to Section 27 of the Principal Act by the substitution of the requirement that "A planning authority shall ensure, when making a development plan, that the plan is consistent with any regional planning guidelines in force for its area.". The Bill also proposes a number of

other changes strengthening the Regional Planning Guidelines. The draft RPG will be published in November 2009.

Related to its work on the Regional Planning Guidelines is the Atlantic Gateways Initiative, examining how Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Galway can together act as a national investment corridor. The Cork gateway, which is larger in terms of population and output than the three others combined, will have a key role in this regard and among the recommendations being developed is the building of a direct rail link between Cork and Limerick, through the reinstatement of a short rail link between Charleville and Patrickswell. Since its inception the authority has been very active in a range of strategically important initiatives for the long term development of the region. In this work it has worked very closely with the local authorities and state agencies, together with important bodies within the region such as the Third Level Institutions, Chambers of Commerce, voluntary sector organisations and industry in the region.

Various thematic issues have significantly underlined the work of the regional authority over the years. In 1994, when the regional authorities were founded, the south west quickly identified the Information Society as a key thematic objective. In 1996 the region was designated by the European Commission as one of about twenty pilot regions for the development of the Information Society. This designation placed the South West as a leading region in Ireland, in terms of identifying the future potential of the Internet and all of its associated components, which by now are commonplace, and in particular raised consciousness of the future importance of the communications infrastructure to future economic growth. Broadband development was identified as a key enabling infrastructure for the Information Society and the regional authority continues to highlight the failure to rollout adequate broadband services to rural areas of Ireland. The promotion of sustainable and renewable energy is another thematic area in which the regional authority is active. A committee, with representatives of all relevant agencies, was established some years ago and the authority is presently in the course of publishing a Regional Bio-energy Strategy. A natural progression from its work in the area of the Information Society, which was the enabling element, is what is now being termed as the Smart Economy or Knowledge Based Economy, where economic gains will be secured. In 2004, the regional authority identified this as a very important aspect of future regional growth and between 2005 and 2008, it led an important European Project DRIVE for Growth, (Directing Research Into Viable Enterprises- for Growth) funded under the Interreg Atlantic 111B Programme, to examine relationships between the research and productive sectors in the south west and in a number of other regions in Ireland UK and Germany. Full details of project research and findings are available at [www.driveproject.eu](http://www.driveproject.eu). Some key recommendations arose from this research and resulting from same, the regional authority has now put in place a Regional Innovation Cluster. This is structured on the triple helix model with the participation of Industry, Research Institutions and state, regional and local development agencies. The Regional Innovation Cluster in recent months has, via the south west regional authority made successful funding bids for three different projects examining the (i) nature of entrepreneurship in the south west, (ii) the potential role of venture capital in SME development and (iii) what is best practice in building sectoral clusters - as opposed to regional or geographic sectors.

An important recommendation also emanating from the authority's work on the Drive project was that the region needed to develop a large Science Park, which would greatly assist in developing stronger linkages between the Higher Educational Institutions and Firms. Planning is now progressing for the development of such a facility within the Cork gateway. Meanwhile, the authority has lodged an application for approximately €3m in European funding to examine how best to manage regional innovation and drive the SMART Economy. This bid, which is led by the authority, has fourteen partners from regions stretching from Finland to Greece, including a number of the new accession countries, all of which have identified similar goals to those of the south west. The authority has a very strong track record in terms of securing European projects and has led or participated as a partner in thirty six projects, valued at over 20 million euro. It is also the only approved non-technical contactor in Ireland to the European Space Agency and has successfully been contacted twice by the Space Agency to undertake research in the communications and ICT applications fields.

## **Committees and Fora**

The regional authority facilitates the Cork City and County Joint Committee which promotes joint activities and opportunities between the two local authorities, it facilitates the Cork Airport Consultative Committee, the Regional Broadband Committee, The Renewable and Sustainable Energy Forum and the recently established Maritime Forum in the South West. The authority is represented by two members on the European Committee of the Regions. It is also represented on and participates on the Board of Fáilte Ireland South West, the Regional Drugs Taskforce and the Regional Fisheries Board. It is a member of the Monitoring Committee on the National Development Plan and Regional Operational Programme. Members of the Authority sit on the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly. The authority in cooperation with the other seven Irish regions maintains an office in Brussels. This office services the European Committee of the regions and the regional and local authorities. Two staff are employed in the Brussels office; see [www.iro.ie](http://www.iro.ie). The South West Regional Authority operates with a personnel complement of the Director and four staff.

**FURTHER DETAILS:** For further information regarding the work of the South West Regional Authority, please contact John McAleer (Director) at [jmcaleer@swra.ie](mailto:jmcaleer@swra.ie).

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## **7. Regional Policy: What's New?**

### **EU BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK FOR MIDLANDS**

WIN Atlantic has been established as a new business support network with the aim of helping SME's and innovative start-up companies build a presence across European markets and expand their business network throughout France, Spain, Portugal, Ireland and the United Kingdom. The network's Irish activities will be centred on the Midlands whose Regional Authority will coordinate a strategic approach also involving support agencies including WESTBIC and the local County Enterprise Boards. The network is funded through the INTERREG IVC (Atlantic area) initiative and membership is free to companies who meet the qualifying criteria. It will provide enhanced networking opportunities to companies located in the participating regions and support them in the development of their business throughout Europe. WIN Atlantic is particularly interested in working with businesses in the Information Communications Technology (ICT), Biotechnologies and Energy/ Environment sectors.

SME applications to get involved in the proposed activities are welcomed. The advantages to network members include the opportunity to receive part finance to attend and participate in local, national and European events or propose their own events, networking opportunities, information on business funding opportunities, and access to information essential for operating in one of the partner countries. For details see [www.winatlantic.com](http://www.winatlantic.com) or contact Sarah Morgan at the Midland Regional Authority, [smorgan@midlands.ie](mailto:smorgan@midlands.ie).(Source: Irish Regions Office, 2009).

### **SHANNON DEVELOPMENT RELEASES 2008 ANNUAL REPORT AND SETS OUT FUTURE DIRECTION AND FOCUS**

The publication of Shannon Development's Annual Report took place in July of this year. Speaking at the event Dr. Vincent Cunnane, Chief Executive set out Shannon Development's policy and aims. "Strong regions are vital for national economic recovery. Shannon Development is working to mobilise the full potential of the Shannon Region, with its pivotal position on the western seaboard, to contribute to this recovery and stimulate future growth,"

stated Dr. Cunnane, "We believe that our regional development model, with its joined up approach to delivering clear economic benefits, is a blueprint that could be adopted in other regions around Ireland. As a regional economic development agency, Shannon Development has a unique 'added value' dimension. We operate in different sectors to generate regional benefits that cannot be delivered under the traditional centralised single sector approach to economic development". Shannon Development highlights for 2008 include:

- Shannon Free Zone (SFZ) performed well in 2008 against a difficult global business environment. Companies there generated €3.5 billion in sales & spend €742m in services
- SFZ companies create 576 new jobs and increase R&D expenditure by 10% to €44 million
- Completion of €18.5 million Broadband Network
- Shannon Development invests €11 million in property solutions for foreign and indigenous companies
- Shannon Development tourism initiatives produce significant results - 32 tourism deals signed, an extra €43m visitor spend & 426,000 bed nights
- Second E-Town project to be completed in '09, bringing Shannon Development's investment in E-Towns to €7 million
- Shannon Development's Knowledge Network business & technology parks

The full report is available at: <http://www.shannondev.ie/AboutUs/Publications/>.

## **REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL PLANNING GUIDELINES 2004-2016 and PREPARATION OF NEW REGIONAL PLANNING GUIDELINES 2010-2022**

The Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG) s are currently in the process of being reviewed. This process will need to be completed by June 2010. As part of the review it is intended to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment. A Draft RPG is currently being prepared with the intention it will go on display for public consideration in December 2009. Full details of the first public consultation which was held in February and March of 2009, associated issues paper and Directors Report; and the SEA and HDA scoping reports are viewable at <http://www.rpg.ie/rpg-2010.html>

## **POSITIVE IRISH AND EURO AREA INDUSTRIAL ORDERS DATA FOR JUNE**

Eurostat report that in June 2009, compared with May 2009, euro area (EA16) industrial new orders index rose by 3.1%. In May the index decreased by 0.5%. In the EU27 new orders fell by 0.4% in June 2009, after rising by 0.5% in May. Excluding ships, railway & aerospace equipment, for which changes tend to be more volatile, industrial new orders grew by 1.9 % in the euro area and by 1.1% in the EU27.

In June 2009 compared with June 2008, industrial new orders decreased by 25.1% in the euro area and by 24.0% in the EU27. Total industry excluding ships, railway & aerospace equipment dropped by 26.7% in the euro area and by 25.9% in the EU27. In June 2009 compared with June 2008, new orders for intermediate goods decreased by 31.1% in the euro area and 29.5% in the EU27. Capital goods dropped by 25.9% and 25.3% respectively. Durable consumer goods declined by 22.2% in the euro area and by 16.8% in the EU27. Non-durable consumer

goods rose by 0.3% and 2.2% respectively. Among the Member States for which data are available, total manufacturing working on orders fell in twenty and increased only in Ireland (+4.2%). The largest falls were registered in Lithuania (-41.3%), Greece (-36.2%), Finland (-34.5%), Slovenia (-34.4%) and Estonia (-33.7%). For further details and data see: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/09/121&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**Note:** The total manufacturing aggregate constructed by Eurostat includes only those NACE levels required by the STS Regulation to be supplied by the Member States (NACE 13, 14, 17, 20, 21, 24 to 30) and is referred to as “total manufacturing working on orders”.

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## 8. Contacting the RSA Newsletter

This is the sixth e-newsletter of the Irish Branch of the Regional Studies Association. There will be one further e-Newsletter produced during 2009, due for circulation in 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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## 9. 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. 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)

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## 10. Current Irish Committee Members

The current RSA committee for 2008 are: Micheál Collins, TCD (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 Boyle, NUI Maynooth; David Hogan, Shannon Development; Gillian Slattery, Enterprise Ireland; David Meredith, Teagasc; Ronnie O’Toole, Northern Ireland Bank; Caroline Creamer, ICLRD/NIRSA, NUI Maynooth; Sean O’Riordain, NUI Maynooth; Philip O’Connor, Dublin Employment Pact; Louis Wildenboer, John Spain Associates, and Fergal Gough, Cork County Council.

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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## **11. 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)**