

EASTERN & MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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A message from the Cathaoirleach

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2015 Annual report for Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, the first such report since the Assembly was established on 1st January, 2015.

2015 has been an exciting year bringing together the 36 members from 12 Local Authority areas to establish a new era of regional governance. This has been reflected in well attended monthly meetings, with many agenda items considered, including County Development Plans and Local Economic and Community Plans. Other topics discussed included The Water Supply Project to the Eastern and Midland Region and the Eirgrid North-South Interconnector project.



Throughout the year members have been active in promoting the region and establishing it as an important participant in the recovery of the Irish economy. Through active participation in the Regional Action Plan for Jobs, The Local Economic and Community Plans process and supporting EU funded projects, members have played an important role in regional development.

Working in close co-operation with the other two regional assemblies, the Northern and Western; and the Southern, the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly members have participated on Programme Monitoring Committees to ensure EU funding coming into the regions have been maximised and used to the best advantage for the citizens of the regions.

In particular, I wish to thank my Leas Cathaoirleach Fiona O' Loughlin for her support and work throughout the year and I would also like to thank my predecessor Councillor Gerry Horkan and his Leas Cathaoirleach Councillor Mick Cahill who were the first to hold their respective positions in the new Assembly.

The establishment of a new organisation with new functions and responsibilities poses many challenges and I wish to thank all the members for the energy and enthusiasm they brought to ensuring the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly was successfully embedded during the year.

Finally, I would like to thank the Director and his staff for their work and support throughout 2015.

A message from the Director



This report and financial statement is the first for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) following its establishment on 1st January 2015 in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

It sets out the activities of the members and the executive throughout 2015 and reflects delivery of the strategic objectives contained in the Assembly's Corporate Plan, adopted by the members in September, 2015.

Upon establishment, the Assembly identified a headquarters in Ballymun, Dublin and located there in January. Over a period of months staff were recruited through the Public Appointments Service and local public competitions. By year's end, the majority of recruitment had been completed, including the first Economist post recruited to the regions, with some key planning posts still to be filled.

Meeting of the Assembly members also commenced in January and continued throughout the year with various strategic regional matters being debated.

The primary functions of the Assembly relate to Economic and Spatial Planning, EU Programmes and Projects and Local Government oversight. Throughout the year 38 submissions were made in respect of City and County Development Plans, Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP) and Statutory documents. The Assembly participated in two EU projects and conducted an extensive consultation process with the 12 Local Authorities within the region, statutory bodies, infrastructure providers and other regional actors to establish its presence and to identify each organisation's priorities.

While continuing to implement 3 existing Regional Planning Guidelines, preparatory consultations required for the production of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies were included within the LECP process given the enhanced economic emphasis within planning.

EMRA has responsibility for administration of the National Delegation to the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Irish Regions Office (IRO) in Brussels. 2015 saw the 9 full and 9 alternate Irish members of the CoR continue to represent Regional and Local Governments' interests within the EU political process. It also saw a new head of unit in the IRO and its office move to the Irish Permanent representative building. EU projects included the Celtic Seas Partnership and RESILENS. Members and executive sat on 11 Programme Monitoring and Steering Groups.

Throughout the year the process of establishing EMRA continued. This included the introduction of robust governance and management systems and throughout the year the Local Government Management Agency provided valuable assistance and advice. A full suite of corporate policy documents have been delivered.

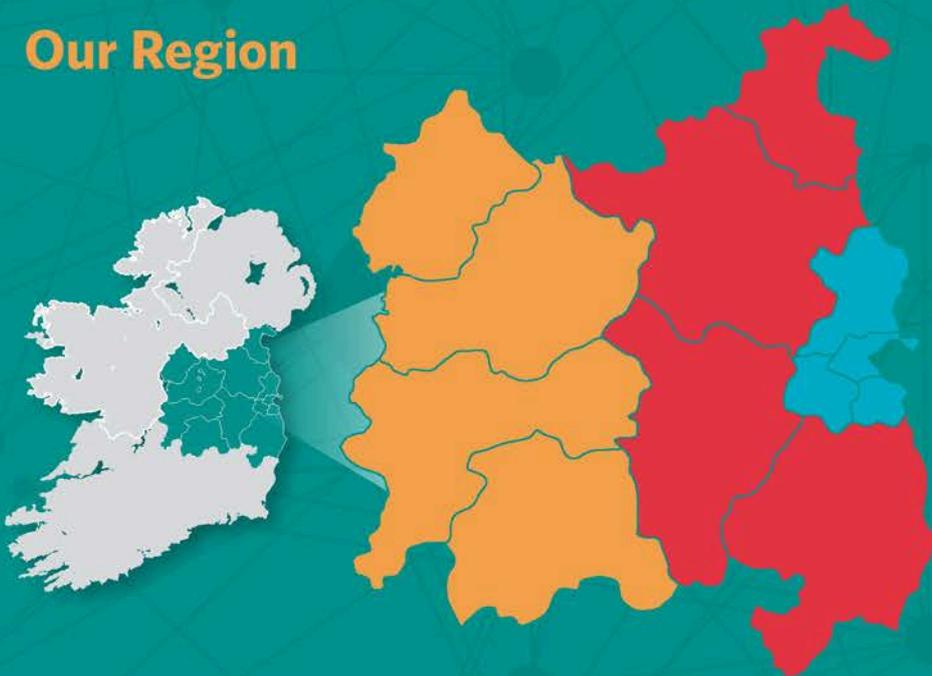
None of the achievements of 2015 would have been possible without the members, and I would like to thank all of them and particularly Cllrs. Gerry Horkan and Pat Vance who gave great support and advice throughout the year as Cathaoirleach.

Finally, I sincerely wish to thank the excellent team I have been privileged to work with during the year. Their commitment and dedication has facilitated me greatly in discharging my responsibilities as Director of Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.



Background- Who we are

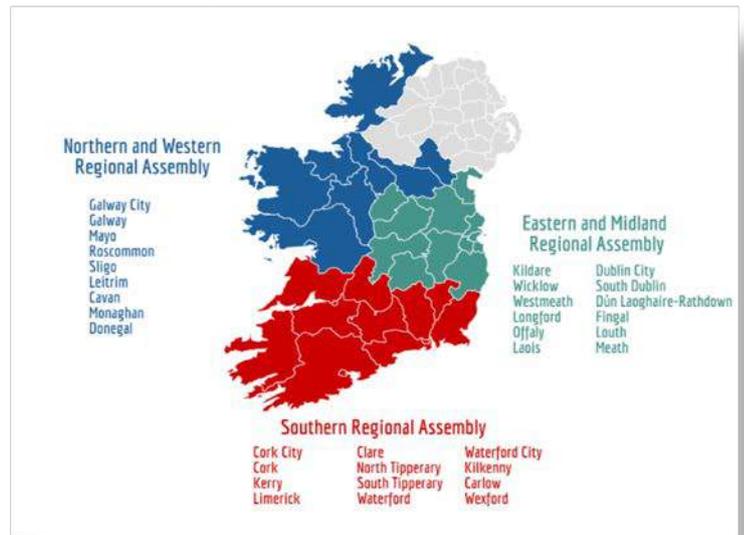
Our Region



	3 Strategic Planning Areas
	12 Local Authorities
	2.21 million persons*
	Land Area 14,463km ²

Establishment of the Assembly

Following on from the enactment of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 a number of changes were made to the regional structures in Ireland where the eight regional authorities were dissolved. Three new Regional Assemblies came into effect on 1st January 2015, namely the Southern Regional Assembly, the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly and the Northern & Western Regional Assembly.



The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) is one of three Regional Assemblies in the Republic of Ireland. The smallest region in terms of land area, it accommodates a population of over 2.21 million persons. The main settlement centre is the Dublin metropolitan area which is supported regionally by key strategic county towns. The region contains an extensive rural hinterland and incorporates 12 city and county councils. The EMRA is part of the regional tier of governance in Ireland, primarily focused on strategic planning, EU programming and funding and coordination of certain local government activities. It is comprised of 36 elected members (councillors) who are principally elected by their peers in the 12 councils to represent them regionally.



Functions of the Assembly

The main functions of the Assembly are to:

- Prepare and adopt, as a statutory function, a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the region,
- Make observations in relation to strategic planning issues and on Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), within the region,
- Contribute to the development of EU, national, regional and local policy, as appropriate and within the scope of regional governance,
- Prepare position papers to various government departments on behalf of citizens, elected members, local groups and associated regional interests, as and when appropriate, and
- Adopt annual budgets for the Regional Assembly.



**Assembly
Meetings
and Membership**

Membership of the Assembly 2015

Councillor		Local Authority	
Paddy	Bourke	Dublin City Council	
Sylvester	Bourke	Wicklow County Council	
Tom	Brabazon	Dublin City Council	Replaced Cllr Haughey Sept. 2015
Paddy	Bracken	Laois County Council	
Tommy	Byrne	Louth County Council	
Mick	Cahill	Longford County Council	
Thomas	Cullen	Wicklow County Council	
Eamon	Dooley	Offaly County Council	
Jonathan	Dowdall	Dublin City Council	Resigned March 2015
Francis	Duffy	South Dublin County Council	
Andrew	Duncan	Westmeath County Council	
Gaye	Fagan	Dublin City Council	Replaced Cllr Dowdall April 2015
Kate	Feeney	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	Automatic Member February 2015 – Nominated to Committee of the Regions
Catherine	Fitzgerald	Laois County Council	
Brian	Fitzgerald	Meath County Council	
Eddie	Fitzpatrick	Offaly County Council	
Mary	Freehill	Dublin City Council	
Seán	Haughey	Dublin City Council	Resigned August 2015
David	Healy	Fingal County Council	
Paddy	Hill	Westmeath County Council	
Gerry	Horkan	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	
Pamela	Kearns	South Dublin County Council	
Ivan	Keatley	Kildare County Council	
Cathal	King	South Dublin County Council	
Dermot	Lacey	Dublin City Council	
Colm	Markey	Louth County Council	
Lettie	McCarthy	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	
Brian	McDonagh	Fingal County Council	
Padraig	McEvoy	Kildare County Council	
Séamus	McGrattan	Dublin City Council	
Maria	Murphy	Meath County Council	
Fiona	O'Loughlin	Kildare County Council	
PJ	Reilly	Longford County Council	
Tommy	Reilly	Louth County Council	
Neale	Richmond	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	
Pat	Vance	Wicklow County Council	

Meetings and Membership of the Assembly

Assembly meetings were held on the second Friday of the month, throughout the year, in City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin 2. A total of 11 Assembly meetings were held during 2015, with an average attendance of 71%.

Assembly Membership

Assembly Members were nominated by the constituent Local Authorities in the region in proportion to the size of the Local Authority's population. Also as a Member was nominated to the Committee of the Regions, they automatically became a Member of the Regional Assembly. In total there were thirty-six members and the breakdown was as follows:

Dublin City Council	7	Louth County Council	2
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	4	Meath County Council	3
Fingal County Council	3	Offaly County Council	2
Kildare County Council	3	South Dublin County Council	3
Laois County Council	2	Westmeath County Council	2
Longford County Council	2	Wicklow County Council	3



The political breakdown of the Assembly during 2015 was as follows:

PARTY	NUMBER OF MEMBERS
FIANNA FÁIL	14
FINE GAEL	7
LABOUR	5
INDEPENDENT (NON PARTY)	5
SINN FÉIN	3
GREEN PARTY	2

Cathaoirleach & Leas Cathaoirleach 2015

Cllr. Gerry Horkan	Cathaoirleach	January 2015 to June 2015
Cllr. Mick Cahill	Leas Cathaoirleach	January 2015 to June 2015
Cllr. Pat Vance	Cathaoirleach	July 2015 to July 2016
Cllr. Fiona O'Loughlin	Leas Cathaoirleach	July 2015 to April 2016

Election of Cathaoirleach at Annual Meeting 10th July 2015

At the first Annual Meeting of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly on Friday, 10th July 2015, Cllr. Pat Vance was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr. Fiona O'Loughlin was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach.



Meetings and Membership of Sub-Committees

A sub-committee was established for the Corporate Plan consisting of Members from each political party and across the region. The members of the sub-committee were as follows

Cllr P Vance (Cathaoirleach)	Fianna Fáil
Cllr G Horkan (former Cathaoirleach)	Fianna Fáil
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick	Fianna Fáil
Cllr D Healy	Green Party
Cllr D Lacey	Labour
Cllr S McGrattan	Sinn Féin
Cllr M Murphy	Fine Gael
Cllr P McEvoy	Independent (Non Party)

2015 EMRA Meeting Schedule

Month	Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly - meeting dates	Month	Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly - meeting dates
January	16 th January	July	10 th July
February	13 th February	August	No Meeting
March	20 th March	September	11 th September
April	24 th April	October	9 th October
May	8 th May	November	13 th November
June	12 th June	December	11 th December

Conferences Attended in 2015

Title	Location	Representatives
MacGill Summer School	Co. Donegal	6
"A Practical Guide to Budget 2016"	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
AIR "New Regions, New Roles, New Responsibilities"	Loughrea, Co. Galway	7



Members Annual Training Workshop - 11th and 12th June 2015

The first annual member's training event was held in the Tullamore, Co Offaly on the 11th and 12th June 2015.

The event was a one day INTERREG information seminar hosted by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in partnership with the three Regional Assemblies. The event brought together representatives from Cross Border, Transnational and Inter-Regional INTERREG Programmes across Europe to present to members potential funding opportunities available to Irish organisations for the 2014-2020 EU funding period.

It also highlighted the Irish projects that were successful within the eight INTERREG programmes.

Gerry Finn, Director of Northern and Western Regional Assembly presented on the role of Regional Assembly within the two Regional Operational Programmes.

There was a workshop for EMRA member's with a presentation from Patrick O'Sullivan, Assistant Principal with Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. He outlined to members the new National Planning Framework & Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies. The statutory role of members and the Irish Planning system was presented by Malachy Bradley, Assistant Director of Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

The functions and corporate identity of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly was presented by Jim Conway, Director of Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.



The Association of Irish Regions

The Association of Irish Regions (AIR) is the national representative organisation of the three Regional Assemblies in Ireland (and previously the eight Regional Authorities also). Its objectives are to express the collective view of its membership on matters concerning their constitution and the functions for which they have statutory responsibilities, and to offer advice to Government on matters pertaining to economic and social development, including matters relating to balanced regional development.

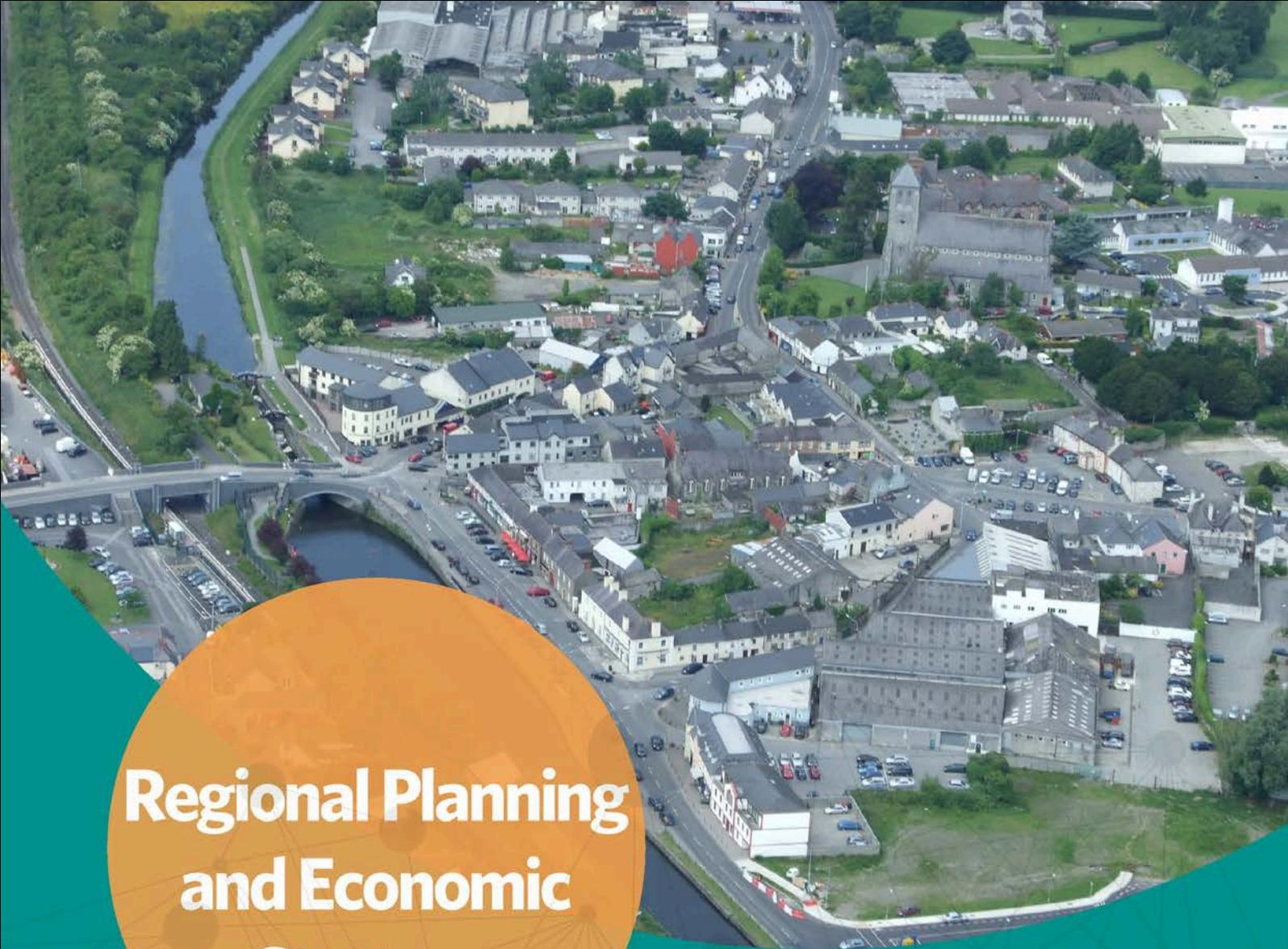
Association of Irish Regions Conference 20th November 2015

On 20th November 2015 a conference was organised by the Association of Irish Regions, in Loughrea, Co Galway and “New Regions, New Roles, New Responsibilities” was selected as the theme for the 2015 Seminar. The seminar explored the roles and responsibilities of the regional assemblies in relation to the National Planning Framework, the preparation of Regional Spatial and Economic Plans and oversight of the development and monitoring of Local Economic and Community Plans.

Mr Malachy Bradley, Assistant Director, delivered an informative presentation on a regional perspective on Local Economic and Community Plans. Other speakers included Paul Horgan, Senior Planning Advisor with Department of Environment, Community and Local government, who made a presentation a National Context to Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. A local authority perspective to Local Economic and Community Plans was presented by Frank Curran, Chief Executive of Leitrim County Council. Emerging Regional Spatial and Economic Planning was presented by Stephen Blair, Director with Southern Regional Assembly.



Mr. Malachy Bradley, AIR “New Regions, New Roles, New Responsibilities,” conference

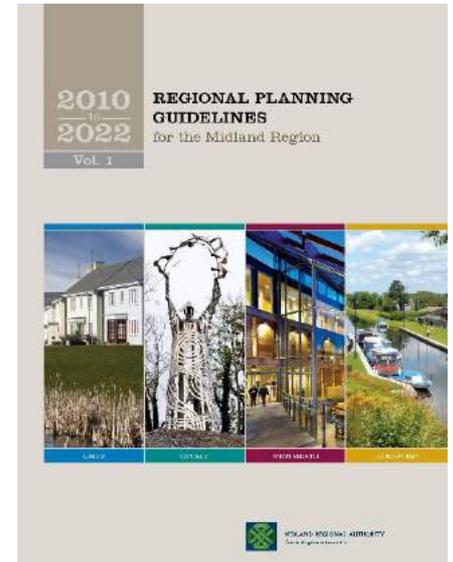
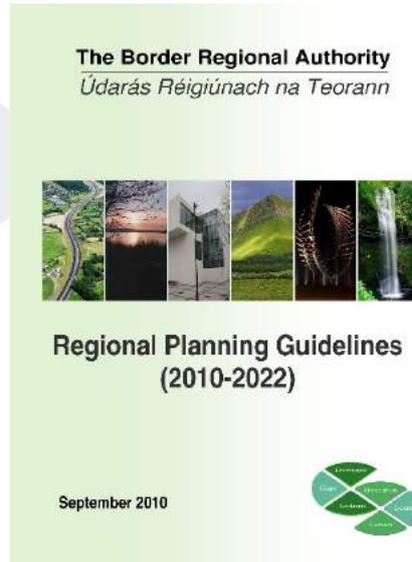
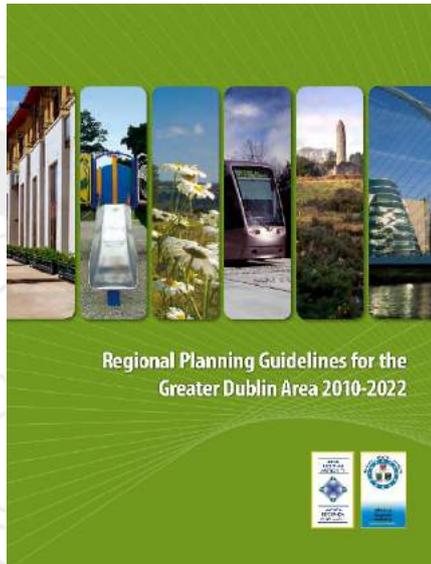


Regional Planning and Economic Strategy

Regional Planning Guidelines

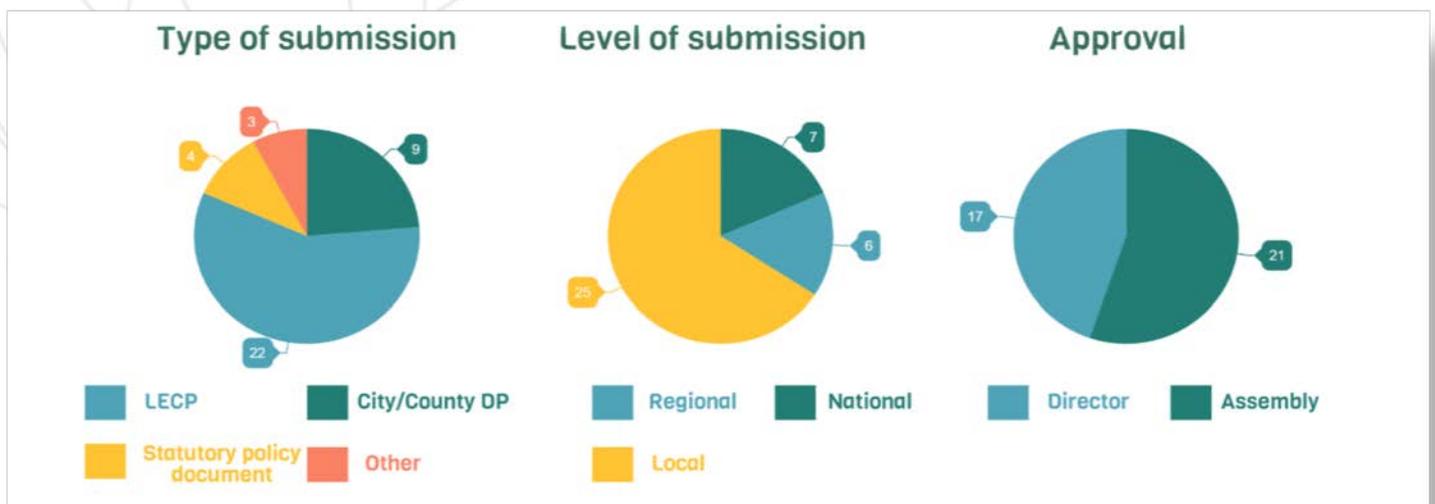
The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly is responsible for the ongoing implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-22; the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Midlands Region 2010-2022 and the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region 2010-22 (EMRA is responsible for the part of these RPGs that pertain to Louth County Council). The RPGs, will in time be replaced by one Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region.

The RPGs provide a framework for, and policy guidance to, Local Authorities and others in the areas of spatial growth, settlement patterns, population and housing targets, economic development, infrastructure, rural development, flood risk, heritage and the environment, and social infrastructure.



Since the adoption of the Regional Planning Guidelines in 2010, significant progress has been made in implementing the strategic planning framework set out in the National Spatial Strategy, by the integration of regional objectives within County and City Development Plans. The primary mechanism for this has been through the provision of core strategies supporting an evidence based approach to spatial land use planning and growth strategies, as provided for in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

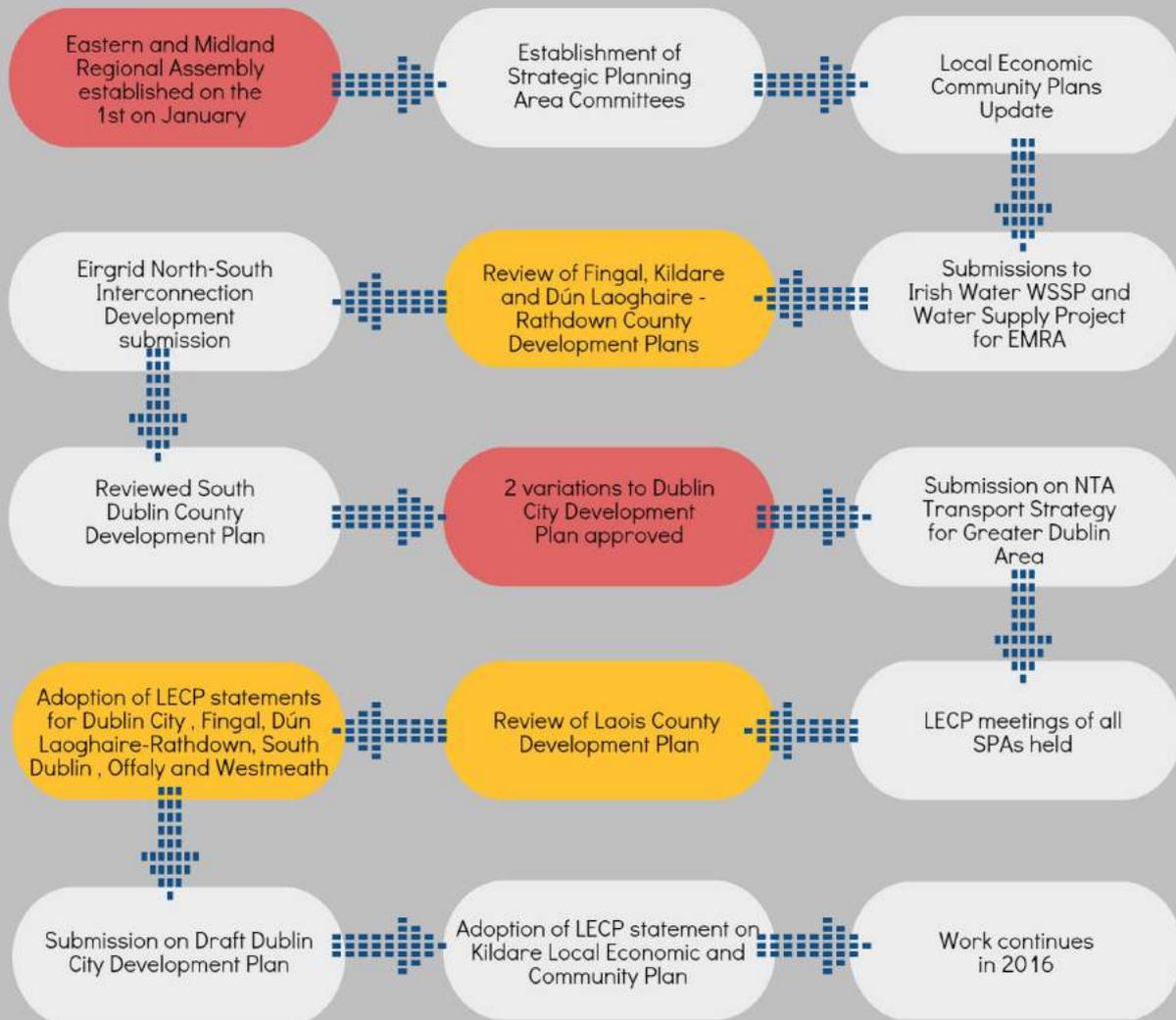
In 2015 the Regional Planning Guidelines have been central across a range of policy areas and consultations by way of engagement with local authorities', state agencies and other stakeholders and by way of 38 formal submissions. Some of these submissions are the Assembly performing its statutory functions by way of observations on Development Plans and variations of Development Plans and statements on Local Economic and Community Plans.



In preparing these submissions the Assembly has worked with the local authorities in the preparation of City and County Development Plans both formally through the requirements of section 27B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and informally through the executive in preparation of the core strategy of Development Plans. The Assembly has made observations on Development Plans and variations of Development Plans in Dublin City, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Kildare, South Dublin and Laois.

In influencing national policy by implementing the Regional Planning Guidelines there have been submissions on the Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan (an integrated plan to address the delivery of water services in Ireland over the next 25 years), The Water Supply Project to the Eastern and Midland Region (which will eventually be a proposal in front of An Bord Pleanala), the organisational review of An Bord Pleanala, Eirgrid's North-South Interconnector and the National Transport Authority's Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy.

2015 PLANNING MILESTONES



Regional Policy

Ensuring other Regional Policy Areas

The Regional Assembly continues to work with a range of agencies and organisations to ensure that regional planning informs emerging and existing policy. The process of collaboration with the Eastern River Basin District Management office continued in 2015 with a series of successful workshops. There was also involvement in the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAMS) project for the Eastern Area and the Shannon Area including ongoing management and flood assessment of the District's rivers.

The Assembly has involvement in emerging environmental policy and tools through collaborating on an environmental sensitivity mapping project and participating in workshops. The project, funded by the EPA through the STRIVE Research Programme aims to develop an online tool to facilitate examination of environmental aspects and analysis of environmental sensitivity onshore and, in this way, support Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) processes.

Preparation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies

One of the main functions of the Regional Assembly will be the preparation and adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) which will be the successor to the Regional Planning Guidelines. "The objective of regional spatial and economic strategies shall be to support the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy and the economic policies and objectives of the Government by providing a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the development of the region for which the strategies are prepared which shall be consistent with the National Spatial Strategy and the economic policies or objectives of the Government." This project will be run in tandem with the production of the National Planning Framework (NPF) as a successor to the National Spatial Strategy. The Assembly liaised with DECLG along with the other 2 Assemblies, during 2015 on the formation of the road map document for the NPF and commenced initial discussions about our involvement in the process and the RSES process.

The executive of the Assembly have focused on initial engagement with key stakeholders in the RSES process and to this end have met the senior planning staff of all the local authorities in the region. We have also met with numerous key state agencies who will be involved in the production of the RSES, this engagement has led to several agencies presenting to the members of the Assembly, in 2015, these included DJEI (April), Enterprise Ireland (June), National Transport Authority (July), Irish Water and Eirgrid (October).



Regional Assembly role in the Local Economic and Community Plans

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly has performed the role under Section 66C of the Local Government Act 2001 (inserted by section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014) in particular section 66C 2(c) and 3(c) which states that the consideration of an LECP by a Regional Assembly shall relate to its consistency-

1. With the core strategy and the objectives of the development plan of the local authority concerned,
2. With any regional spatial and economic strategy or, as appropriate, regional planning guidelines that may apply, and
3. Between the economic and community elements of the Plan.

The role of the Assembly has been further expanded by the DECLG Circular LG 01/2015 AG 01/2015 – Guidelines on Local Economic and Community Plans issued 21/01/2015, and Circular LG 06/2015; AL 04/2015 – Guidance Note on Local Economic and Community Plans issued 17/07/2015. These Circulars provide for the Assembly having a significant role in the formation of the LECP, in conjunction with the Local Authority by commenting on all stages of the process from the Socio Economic Statement, and various drafts of the emerging LECP before performing its statutory function under section 66C as outlined above. With regard to the formal statements the Assembly has issued statements for the local authorities in Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin, Offaly, Westmeath, and Kildare.

This is the key area in 2015 where the Regional Assembly has performed its enhanced economic function. We have also participated in the formulation of the Regional Action Plan for Jobs for the Midlands, Mid East, Dublin and the North East/North West Region by engaging in the relevant stakeholder events and we have also engaged with all the local authorities around the LECPs, meeting the relevant senior staff individually.

In performing our coordination role the Assembly facilitated regional meetings at Strategic Planning Area Level with the key local authority staff. This collaboration provided for information sharing, regional level consultation with key stakeholders and a greater consistency amongst counties. This coordination aspect of the Assembly allowed us to perform our economic function at a strategic level, helped to shape the architecture of LECPs in our Region and built a significant platform for the preparation of the RSES.

Future Challenges and Opportunities

The first year of the new Regional Assembly involved significant resources in establishing our function and role in regional strategic planning and economic strategy. A network of key stakeholders had to be fostered, whilst placing the Assembly in its strategic position of policy formation at a regional level in Ireland. This has been performed alongside ongoing implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines, which are still the relevant regional planning document to implement and monitor regional planning and respond to the changing dynamics of regional governance.

The future of the Assembly is in the preparation of the National Planning Framework, which in turn will influence our main policy document the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. Whilst preparatory work had commenced on the NPF, 2016 will see the production of a draft NPF late in the year which will trigger the commencement of the RSES process. EMRA will need to ensure that preparatory work for RSES is in place with our network of stakeholders engaged and committed to the policy making process. The RSES will become the main policy driver for the implementation and monitoring of regional planning, sustainable development and economic strategy, aligned with EU, national and local policy and funding programmes in Ireland.

Future

IRELAND PLANNING POLICY HEIRARCHY 2016+





EU Activities

EU Policy and Funding Framework

There are 5 EU Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in the 2014 - 2020 programming period (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD, EMFF, CF). Ireland is in receipt of 4 of these funds (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD and EMFF). There is no Cohesion Fund allocation to Ireland as Irish Gross National Income (GNI) per capita is over 90% of EU's average.

ESIF	Acronym	Allocation
European Rural and Development Fund (Regional Operational Programmes and European Territorial Cooperation ETC - Interreg Cross-border, Transnational and Interregional)	ERDF	€409.2m Including €169m ETC
European Social Fund	ESF	€542m
Cohesion Fund	CF	n/a
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (including LEADER)	EAFRD	€2.19b Including €157m LEADER
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund	EMFF	€147.6m

The allocations in the table above represent the EU co-financing element, which in all cases, is matched by exchequer spending towards delivering strategic investment objectives.

The common goal of all of the Funds is to bridge the gap between the wealthier and less well-off regions of Europe by co-financing development programmes. This will reduce the differences between regions and create a better economic and social balance within and between Member States. The total amount of ESIF in Ireland for the 2014 - 2020 programming period is **€3,289,837,222** (as per Partnership Agreement)

The Structural Fund element of the ESIF in Ireland includes both the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional and Development Fund (ERDF). Ireland will receive **€1.153** billion from the Structural Funds from 2014-2020:

- €542 million will be in the form of ESF assistance. An additional €68m is provided for the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), which will be programmed through the ESF programme.
- €409.2 million is for European Regional Development Fund co-funded programmes including €160,097,179 for the BMW Regional Operation Programme and €249,109,350 Southern and Eastern Regional Region.

The remainder of the ESIF €3.289 billion allocated to Ireland is as follows:

- **€2.19 billion** from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development Fund (EAFRD). This includes the LEADER Programme funding of **€157,000,000**.
- **€147.6 million** from the European Maritime & Fisheries Fund (EMFF), also for the period 2014-2020.

Regional Operational Programmes (ROPs)

The Regional Assembly assisted in the implementation of both the Irish Regional Operational Programmes – the Southern and Eastern ROP and the Border, Midland and Western ROP. These programmes involve significant investment in areas that help create jobs, increase competitiveness and innovation, promote indigenous enterprise and improve the critical infrastructure which facilitates our daily lives. Current Regional Operational Programmes (2014-2020) target the following priorities:

- Strengthening research, technology development and innovation
- Information and communications technology
- The creation of new enterprises and support for SMEs
- Low carbon economy
- Sustainable urban development

It is essential that investment in these areas add value to our local and regional economies, producing jobs and increased social cohesion. A better physical environment is also of benefit to the region making it a more attractive place to invest.

The Southern & Eastern ROP

EMRA elected members Cllrs Lettie McCarthy (Full), Gerry Horkan (Alternate), Tommy Reilly (Full), Pat Vance (Alternate) and EMRA Director Jim Conway sit on the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) for the Southern and Eastern ROP.

Priority	ERDF Support	National Counterpart	Total Funding €m	Co-financing Rate	Spend to-date (1 st Jan 14 to 31 st Dec 15)		
					Total	ERDF Support	National support
1 - Strengthening RTDI in the S&E Region	90,000,000	90,000,000	180,000,000	50%	14,198,818.00	7,099,409	7,099,409
2 – ICT	30,000,000	30,000,000	60,000,000	50%	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 – SME Competitiveness	34,600,000	34,600,000	69,200,000	50%	9,924,637.00	4,962,318.50	4,962,318.50
4 – Low Carbon Economy	66,500,000	66,500,000	133,000,000	50%	33,209,771.00	16,604,885.50	16,604,885.50
5 – Sustainable Urban Development	26,000,000	26,000,000	52,000,000	50%	0.00	0.00	0.00
6 – Technical Assistance	2,009,350	2,009,350	4,018,700	50%	190,025.35	95,012.67	95,012.67
TOTAL	249,109,350	249,109,350	498,218,700	50%	57,523,251.00	28,761,625.67	28,761,625.67

Border, Midland and Western ROP

EMRA elected members Cllrs Paddy Bracken (Full), Catherine Fitzgerald (Alternate) and EMRA Director Jim Conway sit on the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) for the Border, Midland and Western ROP.

Priority	ERDF Support	National Counterpart	Total Funding €m	Co-financing Rate	Spend to-date (1 st Jan 14 to 31 st Dec 15)		
					Total	ERDF Support	National support
1 - Strengthening RTDI in the S&E Region	52,000,000	52,000,000	104,000,000	50%	12,943,416.00	6,471,708	6,471,708
2 – ICT	45,000,000	45,000,000	90,000,000	50%	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 – SME Competitiveness	29,000,000	29,000,000	58,000,000	50%	7,683,710	3,841,855	3,841,855
4 – Low Carbon Economy	18,000,000	18,000,000	36,000,000	50%	15,372,576	7,686,288	7,686,288
5 – Sustainable Urban Development	14,000,000	14,000,000	28,000,000	50%	0.00	0.00	0.00
6 – Technical Assistance	2,097,179	2,097,179	4,194,358	50%	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	160,097,179	160,097,179	320,194,358	50%	35,999,702	17,999,858	17,999,858

EU Programme Monitoring Activities

The EMRA had a series of important functions to perform in relation to European affairs. Our regional government status gave us an opportunity to influence EU policy, to access EU funding, and to engage in beneficial EU projects and EU networks. The EMRA represented Ireland in the management of a number of EU Programmes, sitting on the following Programme Monitoring and Steering Committees:

National Partnership Agreement (30th November)

This is the contract between Ireland (as a Member State) and the European Commission for all the European Social and Investment Funds (ESIF). These include European Rural Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the Cohesion Fund.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

- Border, Midland and Western Regional Operational Programme (10th March)
- Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme (12th May)
- Interreg North West Europe (NWE) (9th and 10th July; 17th and 18th November)
- Interreg Ireland-Wales (PMC 26th November; Steering Group 4th and 5th November)
- PEACE IV
- URBACT (PMCs 10th March, 10th and 11th September, 10th and 11th December. Info Days: 27th March and 15th October)

European Social Fund (ESF)

- Programme for Employability, Inclusion & Learning (PEIL) (24th April)

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

- European Maritime and Fisheries Operational Programme (15th April; 26th November)

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

- Rural Development Programme (LEADER) (25th September)

Meetings and Membership of Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020 and Border, Midland and Western Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020.

Each of the Operational Programmes contained in the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) are required to have a Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC). The overall role of the Monitoring Committee is to satisfy itself as to the effectiveness and the quality of the implementation of all expenditure under the Programme. The Monitoring Committee considers the progress and impact of the co-financed expenditure and makes recommendations in this regard to the Managing Authority. The Monitoring Committee meet on an annual or more frequent basis to review the previous years' progress. Representatives also sit on the Programme Steering Committees as detailed in the NPA.

Representation of Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly on various Programme / EU Committees

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Southern and Eastern Operational Programme Monitoring Committee

Cllr Lettie McCarthy (Full); Cllr Tommy Reilly (Full); Cllr Gerry Horkan (Alternate); Cllr Pat Vance (Alternate); Mr Jim Conway, Director

Border, Midland and Western Regional Operational Programme Monitoring Committee

Cllr Paddy Bracken (Full); Cllr Catherine Fitzgerald (Alternate); Mr Jim Conway, Director

Interreg VA Ireland-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee

Cllr B Brian McDonagh (Full); Cllr Pamela Kearns (Alternate)

Interreg VA Ireland-Wales Programme Steering Committee

Ms Labhaoise McKenna, Senior Programme Executive

PEACE Programme Monitoring Committee

Cllr Tommy Byrne (Full); Cllr Colin Markey (Alternate)

Interreg VB North-West Europe Programme Monitoring Committee

Ms Labhaoise McKenna, Senior Programme Executive

URBACT Programme Monitoring Committee

Ms Labhaoise McKenna, Senior Programme Executive

European Social Fund (ESF)

Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning Monitoring Committee
Ms Labhaoise McKenna, Senior Programme Executive

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Operational Programme Monitoring Committee
Mr Jim Conway, Director

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Rural Development Programme (LEADER)
Mr Jim Conway, Director

National Partnership Agreement

National Partnership Agreement Programme Monitoring Committee
Cathaoirleach Cllr Pat Vance; Mr Jim Conway, Director

Irish Maritime Forum
Cllr Gerry Horkan

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances (IPB)
Cathaoirleach (ex-officio)

Regional Action Plan for Jobs
Mr Jim Conway, Director
Mr Malachy Bradley, Assistant Director

ENCORE (Environmental Conference of the Regions of Europe)
Mr Jim Conway, Director

Irish Regions Brussels Office



The Irish Regions Brussels Office (IRO) is an EU support facility collectively provided by the three Regional Assemblies and managed by EMRA. It is the sole organisation with a mission to enable the engagement of the broad Irish local government sector and its stakeholders in EU initiatives and opportunities. As such, the IRO provides the only Irish presence among almost 300 representative offices established in the EU capital by regions, cities and local government associations from across Europe. On behalf of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG), the IRO, in tandem with EMRA, provides the secretariat for the Irish national Delegation to the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

The functions of the IRO include monitoring and reporting on the latest developments in relevant EU policy fields; providing analysis and advice to facilitate the active pursuit of funding from the programmes managed by the European Commission; and other representational, networking and liaison functions enabling Irish local authorities and Regional Assemblies to further their interaction with the EU Institutions and with counterparts elsewhere in Europe. 2015 was a year of change for the IRO, with a new Irish delegation to the Committee of the Regions (CoR) appointed in February for the 2015-2020 CoR mandate. There were also personnel changes, with Robert Collins leaving the post of head of office to be replaced by Sarah Holden in August 2015. Finally, in October 2015 the IRO moved to new premises and is now housed within the Irish Permanent Representation building in Brussels.

Among the (non-CoR) activities carried out by IRO Brussels in 2015 were:

- Monitoring of EU policy and programming developments and attendance at various workshops, seminars and information sessions.
- Timely and succinct research and reporting/briefings on recent developments and funding opportunities of specific relevance to our clientele, for example the Urban Innovative Actions Fund.
- Detailed consultation and advisory services in response to stakeholder enquiries.
- Publication and wide circulation of 2 '*EU News Bulletins*'.
- Expanded deployment of the *@IrishRegions_EU* twitter feed.
- Meetings with and briefings to visiting groups and delegations, e.g. Association of Irish Local Government, Cork City Council, Limerick City Council, Cork Chamber of Commerce, East Border Region (including local representatives from Meath and Louth County Councils), ICBAN, Pobal, NUI Maynooth).
- Networking and alliance-building, including with other Brussels-based regional representations and associations (e.g. lobby campaign on ensuring sufficient post-2020 European Structural & Investment Funding for all regions; Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions).
- Liaison with officials within the European Institutions, with MEPs and with representatives of Irish Government Departments to discuss and clarify issues of interest and areas of opportunity.
- Proxy representation of interests at Brussels-based EU working/advisory/expert groups, thematic and regional fora and project meetings (e.g. Trans-European Transport Networks North Sea Mediterranean Corridor Forum and the Expert Group on European Structural and Investment Funds).

Committee of the Regions



A significant function of Irish Regions Brussels Office is to coordinate the work of the members of the national delegation to the Committee of the Regions (CoR). As the European Union's assembly of local and regional representatives, the CoR has 350 members from across the 28 EU Member States, all of whom must be democratically elected and/or hold a political mandate in their home country. The CoR's role is to inform the development of EU legislation and future European policies through the input of those most closely representing communities, with a focus on those EU policy areas and proposals that most greatly impact on regions and cities. The CoR mainly presents its views through written opinions or resolutions which are developed and discussed in one of six thematic Commissions covering the following policy areas:

- Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX)
- Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER)
- Economic Policy (ECON)
- Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE)
- Natural Resources (NAT)
- Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC)

Each Commission generally meets on 5 occasions during a calendar year to prepare the opinions which are then adopted at the 5-6 plenary sessions held annually. Commissioners, Presidency Ministers and MEPs regularly attend CoR meetings and there is an ongoing exchange between the institutions on policy issues. As its key output during 2015, the CoR agreed and adopted 46 Opinions, plus 7 Resolutions.

The Irish delegation

In line with the Committee of the Region's new mandate for 2015-2020, February saw the appointment of a new Irish delegation to the CoR, with nine full members appointed from across each of the three regional assemblies. The new delegation included three EMRA representatives - Cllr Mary Freehill (Dublin City Council), who served as Head of Delegation; Cllr Neale Richmond and Cllr Kate Feeney (both Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council). Nine alternate members were also appointed including Cllr. Fiona O'Loughlin (Kildare County Council). Each full member of the Irish delegation was also appointed as a member of two CoR Commissions.

CoR members 2015

Members nominated to the CoR are:

Full members: Cllrs. Mary Freehill, Neale Richmond, Maria Byrne, Kate Feeney, Hughie McGrath, Kieran McCarthy, Rose Conway-Walsh, Enda Stenson, Jerry Lundy.

Alternate members: Cllrs. Deirdre Forde, Mary Shields, William Paton, Niall McNelis, Declan McDonnell, Jimmy McClearn, Michael Murphy, Maurice Quinlivan, Fiona O'Loughlin





As secretariat to the national delegation, the IRO provided analysis and briefing to members at each stage of the drafting process as opinions progressed through the various Commissions to the plenary level with a focus on identifying the likely impacts or opportunities for Ireland, particularly at the regional and local level.

Examples of topics covered by Opinions in 2015 include:

- *'The future of the dairy sector';*
- *'The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)';*
- *'Better protecting the marine environment';*
- *'A European Agenda on Migration';*
- *'Simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy';*
- *'Paris Protocol – A blueprint for tackling global climate change beyond 2020 and*
- *'Standards of Remuneration in Employment in the EU (A living wage)'.*

Overall during 2015, the IRO staff briefed the Irish members in advance of 30 separate commission meetings across the CoR's 6 broad areas of work, as well for the 6 full plenary sessions and 8 Bureau (executive body) meetings. National delegation meetings were also held in advance of each plenary meeting to discuss agenda items and ensure that any Irish perspectives were fully represented as part of the CoR discussions. Members also sought to develop political links with their colleagues in the wider political group structures in the CoR.

As part of its representational role, the delegation maintains a focus on developing relationships with others who represent Irish interests in the EU. In April 2015, the delegation held a meeting with Ambassador Kelleher, the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the EU, the Irish Permanent Representative to the EU to discuss Irish priorities in the EU, while in October 2015 the delegation met with the EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan, to discuss topics of Irish local and regional interest in advance of the Commissioner's appearance at the Committee of the Regions plenary. The delegation also made a submission to the preparation of Ireland's National Reform Programme (NRP) as part of the annual European Semester process, which included a presentation to the Oireachtas Committee on EU Affairs in March 2015.

The following are the members on the commissions for 2015:

COTER	Rose Conway Walsh, Mary Freehill, Kieran McCarthy
ECON	Maria Byrne, Kate Feeney, Neale Richmond
NAT	Rose Conway Walsh, Jerry Lundy, Enda Stenson
SEDEC	Maria Bryne, Kate Feeney, Kieran McCarthy
CIVEX	Jerry Lundy, Hughie McGrath, Neale Richmond
ENVE	Mary Freehill, Hughie McGrath, Enda Stenson



**Corporate,
Finance
and HR**

CORPORATE

The main function of the corporate section was to put in place the systems and processes of the new assembly in January 2015 and their ongoing management. The offices of the assembly were identified at Ballymun Civic Centre, Ballymun, Dublin 9 and the initial staff relocated to the premises in January 2015.

A plan was then established to support the smooth transition of all systems and processes from the Southern Regional Assembly and the dissolved Regional Authorities to the new EMRA offices.

Appropriate corporate processes and procedures including office management, HR, and financial systems suitable for the assembly long-term needs were developed and implemented.

To this end, priority was given to ensure that the establishment early in 2015 was completed on schedule and with a minimum disruption in delivering the key functions of the assembly.

In addition, in October 2015, the assembly assisted with the relocation of the Irish Regions Brussels Office into the Irish Permanent Representation office, in Brussels.

Corporate Plan 2015 -2019

The Corporate Plan 2015-2019 was developed by the members and the executive of the assembly in September 2015 by a sub-committee. The plan involved consultation with the members of the assembly through a specifically established sub-committee. The plan sets out the strategic direction for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly for a five year period from 2015-2020. This Plan, which is the governance framework for the Assembly, will provide for the delivery of Annual Reports to record details of progress in relation to the objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan and the delivery of the assembly functions between 2015 and 2020.

FINANCE

The main functions of the Finance section in 2015 included:-

Managing the transition of financial resources from the dissolved regional authority accounts (Dublin, Mid East and Midlands) through the Southern Assembly to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.

Preparation of the Annual Budget for 2015.

Financial Management, procurement and control.

Payment, recoupment and reconciliation of accounts.

Financial administration of the EU Affairs office in Brussels.

Implementation of EMRA payroll and superannuation processes into the local government payroll and superannuation shared services centre (MyPay).

Pre-implementation rollout of new financial management system – Agresso.

Assistance with the local government 2014 audit for the dissolved regional authority accounts (Dublin, Mid East and Midlands).

HUMAN RESOURCES

The main function of the Human Resources section was to implement the adopted workforce plan for the EMRA. Implementation of this plan was carried out through successful recruitment and redeployment of staff into the new assembly during 2015.

Staff were appointed to the following posts in 2015 and recruitment was managed in conjunction with the Public Appointment Service:

- Director
- Assistant Director/Senior Planner
- Two Clerical Officers

The recruitment and appointment processes for the following posts were managed directly by the HR division of the Assembly:

- Senior Programme Executive
- Head of Irish Regions Officer/Co-ordinator of Committee of Regions (Brussels based)
- Programme Executive
- Economist (shared service with other two assemblies)
- Policy and Research Officer
- Project Manager for Celtics Seas and RESILENS
- Two Clerical Officers

HR also managed the change management of staff from the dissolved Dublin Regional Authority into the new assembly and the secondment of staff back to their parent local authority in 2015.

In addition the HR division produced a suite of HR policies and procedures for all new staff in the Assembly to reference:

- Employee Handbook
- Health and Safety Statement
- Protected Disclosures Procedure
- Attendance Management Policy
- Code of Conduct Policy
- Dignity at Work Policy
- Grievance & Disciplinary Procedure
- Sick Leave Policy
- Smoking in the Workplace
- Travel & Subsistence
- Flexi-Time Scheme

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly employed 13 staff (FTE) at year end 31/12/2015.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications and promotion of the new assembly was recognised as a key role of the assembly. To this end, an officer was assigned to the role of communications within the assembly, with a particular emphasis in promoting the functions and enhanced role of the assembly.

Social Media

In 2015 a new communications policy was adopted for the assembly along with a specific social media policy. We have launched 2 social media accounts:



Eastern and Midland
Regional Assembly



@EMRAAssembly
&
@IrishRegions_EU

Use of corporate social media accounts has been developed to enhance and improve communication by the assembly, in particular to promote and inform followers as to its functions and statutory role.

Tweeter and Facebook accounts are managed on an ongoing basis in order to promote Assembly's activities, events attended by Members and employees, EU projects and Irish Regions Office work.

Website

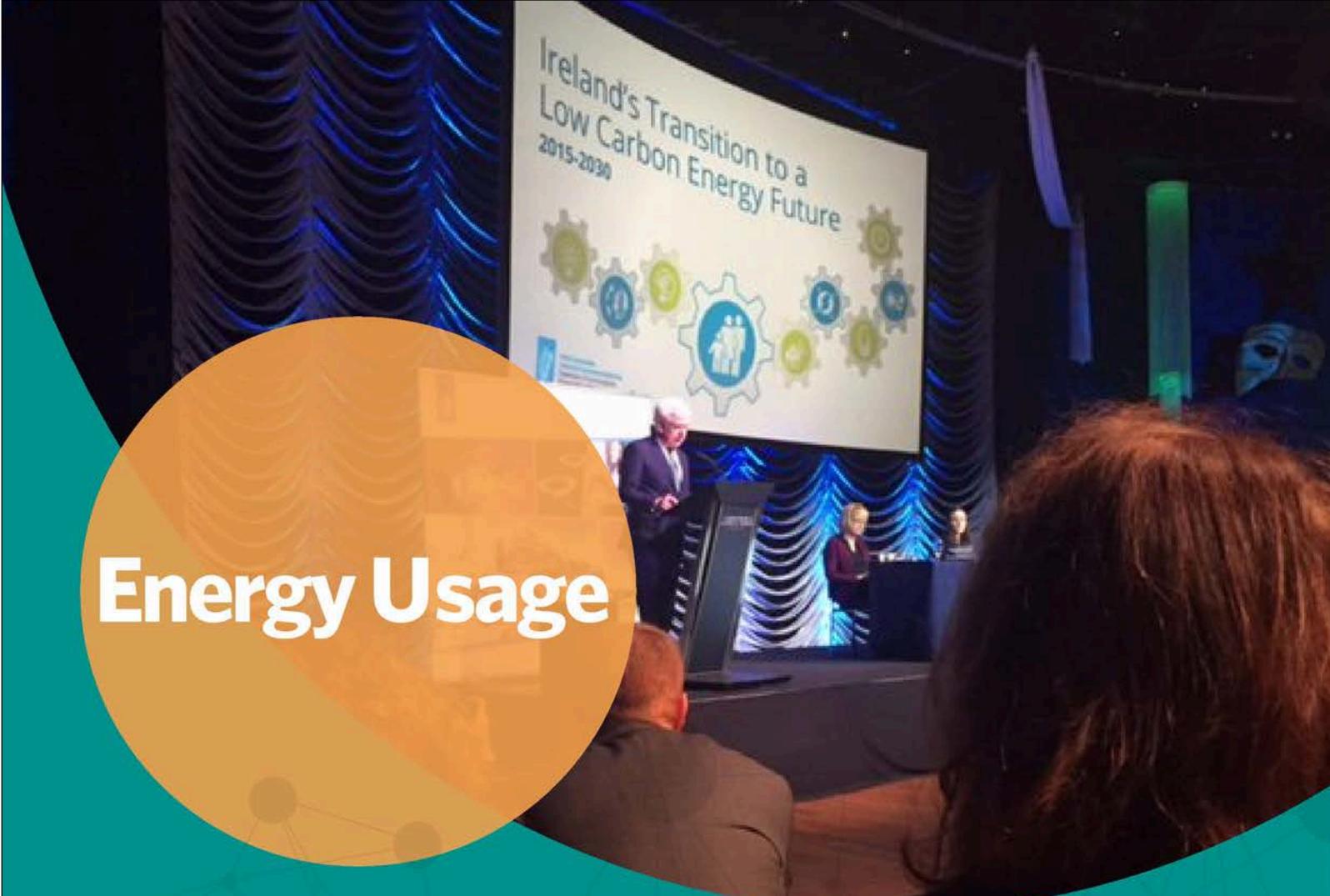
A new website www.emra.ie has been launched in March 2015. It is being used to engage with stakeholders and the general public and enables them to get access to insight on EMRA activities. The website is continually developed and enhanced. The latest additions are:

- Twitter account feed,
- Horizontal scrolling announcements,
- Slider with pictures promoting the region,
- Improved quality of pictures used,
- Reorganised menu,

Newsletter 2015

A newsletter summarising key EMRA activities has been published and is available on Assembly's website. It highlights the main activities of the Assembly and its milestones in 2015, achievements of projects it is involved in (RESILENS, Celtic Seas Partnership, IE Network), Irish Regions Office actions and Monitoring Committee's membership.





Energy Usage

Overview of Energy Usage in 2015

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly offices moved into the 3rd floor of the Ballymun Civic Centre offices in January 2015. The floor is leased from Dublin City Council and the assembly occupy approximately 3.9% of the floor area of this building.

Electricity is the sole energy source in Ballymun Civic Centre offices and energy consumption is broken into the following categories:

- Heating the offices
- Providing light
- Powering of pcs and other office equipment and
- Source of hot water in the building.

In 2015, the following energy saving initiatives were introduced throughout the civic building:

- Microwave sensors installed on car park lights.
- Microwave sensors installed on stair core lights.
- Chiller set point adjusted from 6c to 8c in autumn and winter.
- Halogen down lighters replaced with GU10 lamps.
- Fluorescent emergency exit lights and exit signs replaced with LED lamps.
- BMS system upgraded.

Actions Planned for 2016

In 2016, the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly will continue to review energy initiatives within the building in conjunction with Dublin City Council. The assembly also intend to identify potential areas for further energy savings and will also run energy awareness training for all employees.



Projects

EMRA Projects

In 2015 the Assembly has been involved in a number of projects, including 3 funded by the European Union. Activities of these project provide a valuable insight that can be useful in regional policy development.

Celtic Seas Partnership

The EMRA is a partner in the Celtic Seas Partnership (CSP) which is a transnational grouping of experts and organisations from across the U.K, France and Ireland. CSP is an EC LIFE+ project delivered with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community. Project number: LIFE11/ENV/UK/392.



CSP aims to draw people together from across the Celtic Seas to set up collaborative and innovative approaches to managing their marine environment. The focus is on supporting the delivery of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) - key European legislation aiming to conserve and protect Europe's seas while allowing sustainable use of our natural marine resources.

The EMRA is developing a Strategic Management Framework and stakeholder engagement model which aims to support the implementation of MSFD in the local context of Dublin Bay. It will outline best practice and provide a toolkit which will inform future actions identifying new opportunities for enhancing Dublin Bay as a resource for stakeholders. The developing Strategic Management Framework for Dublin will take from the learning and best practice of the overall project. Invitations to participate in a Steering Committee were sent to key persons identified as having potential valuable input to the Strategic Management Framework. An outline Strategic Management Framework for Dublin Bay was produced and circulated to the Steering Group for comment.

The development of an open and reliable data repository for marine and coastal related projects has the potential to reap benefits at grassroots community level as well as research and commercial benefits. The Dublin Dashboard was developed by The Programmable City project and the All Island Research Observatory (AIRO) at Maynooth University, working in collaboration with Dublin City Council. EMRA engaged in data collation and manipulation around developing a Dublin Bay module on the Dublin Dashboard including time series and real time data relating to Dublin Bay and its functioning across sectors. Engagement took place with key data holders and data experts for the purposes of building a Dublin Bay module on the Dublin Dashboard. For further details see: <http://www.dublindashboard.ie/pages/DublinBay>

In addition community profiling was undertaken of coastal communities in Dublin Bay based on location; spatial and community integrity and linkages and transport connectivity. Initial development began on an Integrated Coastal Management Guideline for use as a resource for the Strategic Management Framework for Dublin Bay. A working paper was produced on a coastal zone delineation for Dublin bay. A questionnaire on the management of Dublin Bay was development and distributed.

The Irish Celtic Seas Partnership workshop took place in Dublin in October at the Kilmainham, Hilton Hotel. Issues covered include: status of MSFD, issues mapping and future scenarios, integrated planning and land sea interactions, conflict resolution, renewables co-location, and transboundary governance. This enabled further engagement with stakeholders on Marine Strategy Framework Directive.



RESILENS

The EMRA is a partner in the Realising European ReSILiencE for Critical INfraStructure (RESILENS) project which is funded by the Horizon 2020 funding stream, the successor to the FP7 funding stream. This is a transnational project with partners from Ireland, Portugal, the UK, Germany and Israel.



The partners are drawn from a range of different backgrounds and have expertise in project management, security, conceptual elements of resilience, technical and engineering aspects of resilience, development of guidelines for public bodies, legal connotations and implications associated with the concept of resilience and the development of interactive platforms. Their expertise and experience will be used to build the guideline and other resources for wider use. The critical infrastructure sectors of gas, electricity, transport and water utilities will be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of the project on a practical level.

Resilience is becoming a very popular concept on which places and systems are being measured. In the same way that sustainability has been integrated into plan and decision-making to ensure that the policy choices of today benefit society in the future, resilience aims to ensure that the choices we make, the management systems we put in place and the infrastructure we build are able to withstand, absorb, recover and evolve from future hazards and threats, both man-made and natural.

Ultimately, a key output for RESILENS is to develop a European Resilience Management Guideline (ERMG) to support the practical application of resilience across all critical infrastructure sectors. The region will benefit in that it will be at the forefront of innovative thinking around the creation of better prepared, more secure, more adaptable and safer, places and systems. The EMRA are leading on work package 4 which involves a pilot demonstration and evaluation of the ERMG.

EMRA staff participated in a project kick-off meeting in Dublin in May, each of the 12 partners introduced themselves and outlined their vision for a successful project. Work package leaders each presented on the proposed approach to undertaking their work package. The EMRA presented the proposed approach to work package 4. A second project meeting was attended by the EMRA in Lisbon. Work progress in ongoing tasks, task advancements, plans for future work and resolution of outstanding issues were discussed. At a RESILENS workshop in Dublin in November, EMRA worked with the critical infrastructure providers to present a scenario to the consortium on a major storm event.

Throughout 2015, engagement took place with critical infrastructure providers and key stakeholders. Material was prepared for the RESILENS e-newsletter, and RESILENS was promoted with some local authorities. Key critical infrastructure stakeholders were identified and informed of the RESILENS project. Communication took place with the Department of Defence regarding promotion of RESILENS to the National Emergency Planning Group. A briefing session was scheduled for February 2016. In addition interviews were conducted with National Transport Authority and Eirgrid (electronically) on critical infrastructure risk and resilience management.

Urb-ADAPT

EMRA successfully submitted a proposal in July 2015 for funding under the EPA Climate Research Call 2015. The proposed project is entitled Urb-ADAPT and aims to develop a climate change adaptation plan for the greater Dublin Area. As part of this project, EMRA is to play a key role in terms of providing inputs in relation to the regional planning context and also in terms of facilitating access to Local Authorities. The proposal was successful and was accepted in October 2015.

The Innovation Enterprise Network (IEN)

The Innovation Enterprise Network (IEN) has been in operation since 2010. Its members consist primarily of unemployed-high skilled professionals seeking re-employment or intending to establish their own businesses.

In 2015 a comprehensive review was carried out to determine the feasibility and role of the IEN. The review was carried out by the Institute of Public Administration (IPA). Following this review the recommendation in the review was to continue with the IEN for a further three years (2016-2019) and for funding to continue from the four Dublin Local Authorities.

In addition, the network's resources are to be administered through the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA).



At the end of 2015 the network has grown to 3,511 members and is now not only supporting unemployed high-skilled professionals but graduates, post graduates and the self-employed. This is a broad mix of individuals who are willing to be involved in a support network which is based on mutual benefit coupled with the consolidation and targeting of existing State and local services.

The IE Network has hosted over 150 network events during 2015.

The experience and knowledge that is within the IE Network provides the ideal platform for idea generation, mentoring and support, all which empowers the members to identify a route back to the workplace, either by getting a new employer, or, if you simply cannot get a suitable job, to assist you with starting out on your own. Members are from all sectors of the business world - architects, web developers, civil, electrical and pharmaceutical engineers, solicitors and business owners.

Funded by the four Local Authorities the IE network delivers motivational talks, seminars, workshops across the Dublin area. These talks take place on Mondays - Fingal, Wednesday's - Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, Thursday's - South Dublin and Friday's - City Centre

You can Change, BE THE CHANGE.

Become a member today www.ienetwork.ie



Kosovan Delegation

On Wednesday 2nd December 2015, delegates from the Kosovo central government institutions met with the Director of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly at City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin 2.

Jim Conway made a presentation to the delegation on the development of regional spatial and economic strategies and the local economic and community planning processes in local government

The delegation were grateful to engage with the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly to understand its role in government policy.





Staff



In Memory

Our colleague and friend, Walter Foley passed away suddenly on 12th January, 2016. Walter during his short but productive career worked in the public service for a number of years, in the University of Limerick, Dublin City Council, University College Dublin and the Dublin Regional Authority.

Following the restructuring of the regional authorities he transitioned over to the new Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly. Walter managed both the RESILENS and Celtic Seas projects in the assembly and his knowledge and skills contributed to other aspects of the assembly work programme, including LECPs and EU Affairs Unit.

Walter was an incredible person, blessed with immense passion and energy and he made friends wherever he went in the world.

Deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Shelagh, son Matthew, his family and friends on their great loss.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam

Walter Foley



Our 2015 STAFF



Jim Conway
Director



Malachy Bradley
Assistant Director



Labhaoise McKenna
Senior Programme Executive



Sarah Holden
Head of Office
Irish Regions Brussels Office



Pat Lonergan
Programme Executive



Travis O'Doherty
Project Officer



Ronan Gingles
EU Affairs and Policy Advisor



Susan Mahon
Clerical Officer



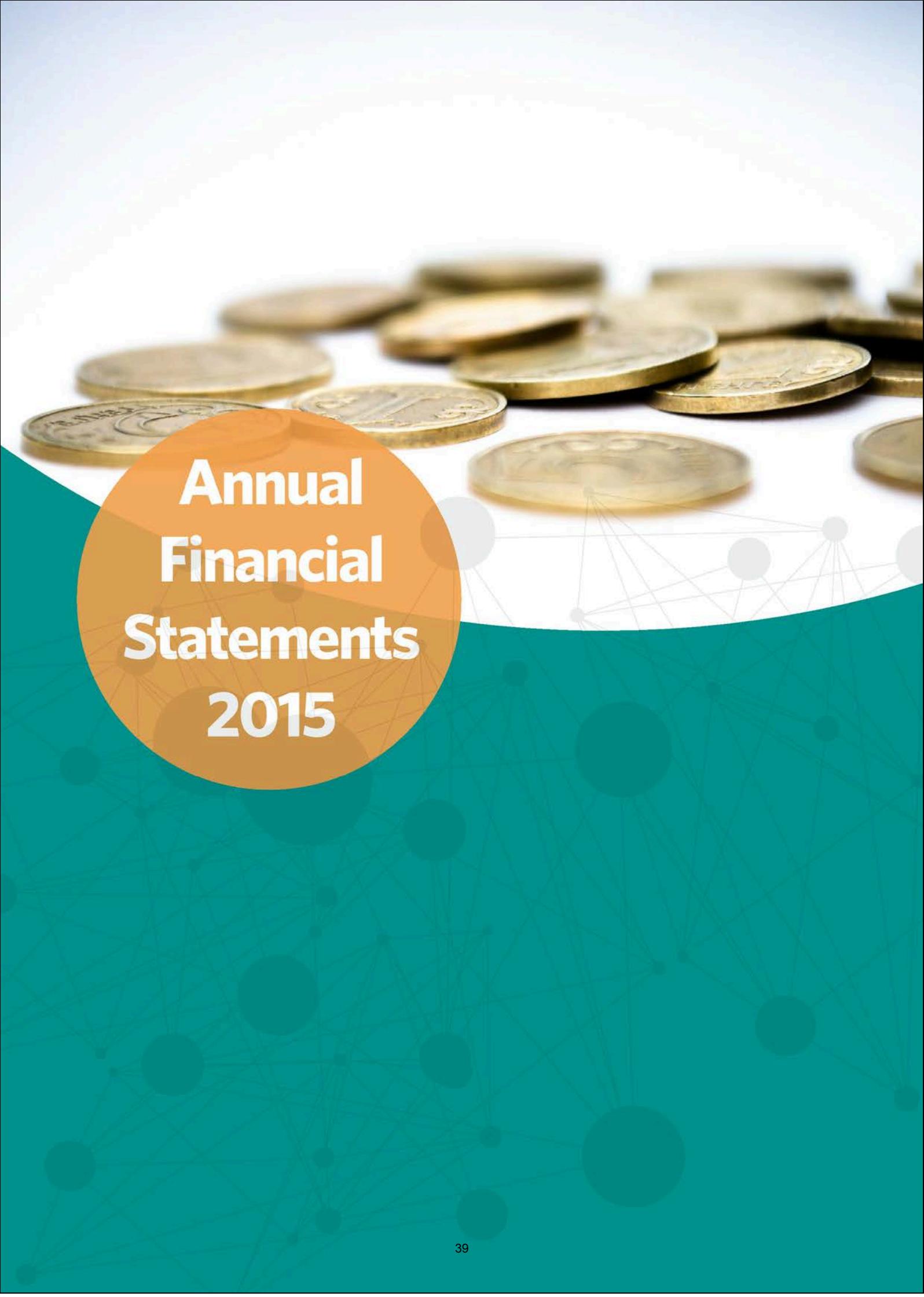
Richard Kenneally
Clerical Officer



Simon Musial
Clerical Officer



Ross Higgins
Clerical Officer



**Annual
Financial
Statements
2015**

Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly - Income and Expenditure Account 31 December 2015

Expenditure	EMRA 2015
Salaries	€ 470,999.27
Office Equipment	€ 35,390.90
Communications	€ 6,189.79
Members Annual Allowances	€ 41,645.36
<i>Travel & Subsistence Allowances:</i>	
I Members Travel & Subsistence	€ 12,355.87
II Members ROP Travel & Subsistence	€ 367.84
III Staff Travel & Subsistence	€ 18,386.12
Rent and Rates	€ 104,659.66
Miscellaneous	€ 40,738.63
EU Affairs & IRO	€ 209,428.00
Celtic Sea Project	€ 35,955.76
EU Operational Programme	€ 4,193.00
Resilens	€ 348.52
I.E. Network	€ 63,925.18
Bank Charges	€ 147.00
Expenditure total	€1,044,730.90
Income	
Local Authorities Contribution	€ 1,048,710.02
Other Income:	€ 14,527.98
Regional Assembly Transfer	€ 29,915.99
Committee of the Regions (DoEHLG)	€ 194,550.75
COR Misc	€ 1,005.23
Celtic Sea Project	€ 12,707.00
Resilens	€ 128,812.50
Bank Interest (BoI)	€ 70.85
Receipts total	€1,430,300.32
Difference between Income + Expenditure	€ 385,569.42
Opening Balance	-€ 62,634.80
Closing Balance at end of year Surplus	€ 322,934.62

Signed: _____

Councillor Pat Vance, Cathaoirleach

Mr. Jim Conway, Director

Consolidated Balance Sheet

for the Financial Year ending 31st December 2015

Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	
Balance Sheet 2015	
Fixed Assets	
IT Equip	€5,000.00
Furniture & Fixtures	€ -
Heritage Assets (Chain of Office)	€10,000.00
	€15,000.00
Current Assets	
Cash at Bank	€585,403.05
Debtors	€47,918.09
Petty Cash	€9.25
Opening Balance difference on Petty Cash 31/12/2014	€14.49
	€633,344.88
Current Liabilities	
Creditors & Accruals	€310,410.26
Credit Cards	€ -
Bank	€-
	€310,410.26
Net Current Assets	€322,934.62
Net Assets	€337,934.62
Financed by	
Balance @ 01/01/15	-€62,634.80
General Reserve	€ -
Inherited Fixed Assets from old DRA	€15,000.00
Excess of Income over Expenditure	€ 385,569.42
	€337,934.62

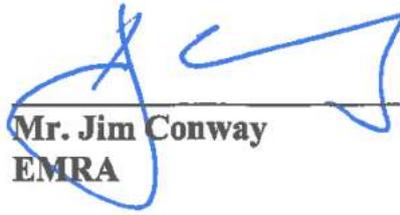
Members' Allowances and Expenses 2015

Councillor	Annual Allowance (Fixed)	Tullamore Training	Operational Programme	Monitoring Committee	Travel & Subsistence CoR	Conf. / Training	Communications Allowance
A Duncan	€ 917.61	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
B Fitzgerald	€ 895.96	€ 120.96	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
B McDonagh	€ 318.67	€ 81.57	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
C Burke	€ 318.91	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
C Fitzgerald	€ 1,814.03	€ 85.24	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 620.11	€ -
C Markey	€ 404.01	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
D Forde (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 340.13	€ -	€ 317.00
D Healy	€ 690.56	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
D Lacey	€ 690.56	€ 243.64	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 720.18	€ -
D McDonnell (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 578.69	€ -	€ 317.00
E Dooley	€ 2,405.05	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
E Fitzpatrick	€ 1,798.20	€ 37.14	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
E Stenson (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 950.41	€ -	€ 1,016.00
F Duffy	€ 372.25	€ 223.13	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
F O'Loughlin (CoR & EMRA)	€ 373.08	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 84.33	€ -	€ 317.00
G Fagan	€ 212.48	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
G Horkan	€ 690.56	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
G Horkan (Cathaoirleach Q1 + Q2)	€ 5,850.00	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
H McGrath (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 607.35	€ -	€ 1,016.00
I Keatley	€ 373.08	€ 219.28	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
J Lundy (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 1,110.40	€ 61.95	€ 1,016.00
J McClearn (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 220.02	€ -	€ 317.00
K Dennison	€ 690.56	€ 230.24	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 420.00	€ -
K Feeney (CoR & EMRA)	€ 265.82	€ 109.51	€ -	€ -	€ 238.28	€ -	€ 1,016.00
K McCarthy (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 97.04	€ -	€ 1,016.00
L McCarthy	€ 690.44	€ 219.77	€ 157.46	€ -	€ 367.84	€ 440.00	€ -
M Byrne (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 1,297.50	€ -	€ 1,016.00
M Cahill	€ 1,963.54	€ 227.63	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
M Freehill (CoR & EMRA)	€ 690.44	€ 221.77	€ -	€ -	€ 1,467.12	€ -	€ 1,016.00
Maria Murphy	€ 737.67	€ 160.44	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
M Quinlivan (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 284.44	€ -	€ 317.00
M Shields (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 317.00
M Murphy (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 580.90	€ -	€ 317.00
N McNeils (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 306.01	€ -	€ 317.00
N Richmond (CoR & EMRA)	€ 265.69	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 554.23	€ -	€ 1,016.00
P Bourke	€ 690.56	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 427.30	€ -
P Bracken	€ 2,003.98	€ 56.00	€ 387.44	€ -	€ -	€ 717.18	€ -
P Hill	€ 2,162.28	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
P Kearns	€ 265.82	€ 206.98	€ -	€ 250.73	€ -	€ -	€ -
P McEvoy	€ 1,006.77	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
P Reilly	€ 2,304.72	€ 239.48	€ 139.94	€ -	€ -	€ 745.96	€ -
P Vance	€ 785.16	€ 199.21	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
P Vance (Cathaoirleach Q3 + Q4)	€ 5,850.00	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
R Conway-Walsh (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 511.94	€ -	€ 1,016.00
S Bourke	€ 739.35	€ 310.29	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 408.11	€ -
S Haughey	€ 159.64	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
S McGrattan	€ 372.25	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
T Brabazon	€ 106.18	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
T Byrne	€ 566.94	€ 179.60	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
T Cullen	€ 1,386.66	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
T Reilly	€ 1,149.22	€ -	€ 694.28	€ -	€ -	€ 702.38	€ -
W Paton (CoR)	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ 106.54	€ -	€ 317.00

EMRA Annual Report 2015 has been approved by:



Cllr. Pat Vance
Cathaoirleach EMRA



Mr. Jim Conway
EMRA

EASTERN & MIDLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

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