



Shared Island: Shared Opportunity

RESCHEDULED NESC Hybrid Event,
in association with the Department of the Taoiseach,
Hibernia Conference Centre, Dublin Castle and online
Tuesday 12th April 2022, 09:45am –13:00pm

Keynote address by the Taoiseach Micheál Martin T.D.

Event Moderator: Mr Tommie Gorman, Journalist

09.45	Registration: Refreshments and Network Opportunity
10.30	Welcome by NESC Director, Dr Larry O’Connell Overview of the event by NESC Senior Policy Analyst, Dr Helen Johnston Introduction to launch by event moderator Tommie Gorman Taoiseach Micheál Martin T.D. Q&A
11.05	Panel Discussion 1: What are the main possibilities for cooperation on the economy for the island? Dr Larry O’Connell, Director NESC Dr Eoin Magennis, Senior Economist Ulster University Economic Policy Centre Michael D’Arcy, Programme Lead Ibec/CBI Joint Business Council Pamela Arthurs, Chief Executive East Border Region Ltd Q&A
11.35	Comfort / Coffee Break
11.50	Panel Discussion 2: What are the main possibilities for cooperation on climate & biodiversity for the island? Dr Jeanne Moore, Social Policy Analyst NESC Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Officer Monaghan County Council Prof Michael Morris, AMBER Director Trinity College Dublin Mark Foley, Chief Executive Officer Eirgrid Plc Q&A
12.20	Panel Discussion 3: What are the main possibilities for cooperation on social policy & wellbeing for the island? Dr Helen Johnston, Senior Policy Analyst NESC Owen Reidy, Assistant General Secretary Irish Congress of Trade Unions Prof Siobhan O’Neill, Mental Health Sciences Ulster University Bríd O’Brien, Head of Policy and Media INOU Q&A
13.00	Closing remarks and Wrap up

Biographies

Taoiseach Micheál Martin T.D: was born in Turners Cross, Cork. He attended University College Cork where he qualified with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He became Taoiseach on 27 June 2020. Previously, he has served as Lord Mayor of Cork in 1992-93, and on the Fianna Fáil front bench and in four cabinet posts: Minister for Foreign Affairs (2008-2011); Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment (2004-2008); Minister for Health (2000-04); and Minister for Education (1997-2000).

Tommie Gorman: Tommie Gorman worked for 41 years with RTE, the national broadcasting service. He served as Belfast-based Northern Editor (2001-2021), Europe Editor (1989-2001) and North West Correspondent (1980-89). He now writes for The Currency and lives in Sligo. He was named Ireland's European of the Year in 2002, was awarded Honorary Degree from NUIG and is a Freeman of Sligo.

Dr Eoin Magennis: has worked in enterprise policy, with a particular emphasis on the island economy, for more than 20 years. Prior to joining Ulster University in 2016 he worked in InterTradeIreland from 2001. As the body's Policy Research Manager he worked on projects dealing with the opportunities that could be achieved through all-island sectoral ecosystems, cross-border trade and the development of innovation collaboration. His current policy research focuses on all-island economic corridors and their development, a gap analysis in cluster policy on the island and how remote working might impact on regional development.

Michael D'Arcy: has been at the leading edge of developing an island economy underpinned by peace, stability and the Good Friday Agreement since the early 1990s. Today, this work incorporates the new dynamic of North/South economic cooperation and collaboration for a Shared Island. Michael is the IBEC/CBI Joint Business Council's Programme Lead supporting their joint initiatives to enhance and sustain all island business. He is also IBEC's representative on the Special EU Programmes Body INTERREG VA Programme Monitoring and Steering Committees and is on the Steering Committee of a joint ESRI/IBEC/NIESR initiative to develop macro-economic modelling for Northern Ireland that is compatible with existing models for Ireland and the rest of the UK. Michael is a Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS) and has produced a number of research articles for them. He has contributed on a number of occasions to NESC's Shared Island work.

Pamela Arthurs: is Chief Executive of the East Border Region, a local authority led cross border organisation which covers six local authorities along the East Coast of Ireland. Formed in 1976, EBR aims to promote cross border economic development which benefits the people of the region. EBR currently financially manages €104m INTERREG VA funding spread across a range of cross border projects and involving multiple project partners. As Chief Executive of EBR Ms Arthurs is responsible for Cross Border Policy, Strategy, Administrative and Financial matters. She is also an Executive member of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR).

Shirley Clerkin: is Heritage Officer with Monaghan County Council, having previously worked for the Irish Wildlife Trust, and An Taisce. She is a graduate of University of Ulster, DIT, the Kings Inns and IPA/UCD where she studied environmental sciences, environmental management, law, local government and public management. She co-ordinates heritage and biodiversity research, best practice, capacity building, and conservation. Shirley was a member of Comhar – the National Sustainable Development Partnership and was the first chairperson of the national network of Heritage Officers from 2017-2020. She manages the Monaghan County Council involvement in the Interreg CANN project. She is a member of the board of directors of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, an all-island residential workplace for artists.

Mark Foley: joined EirGrid Group as Chief Executive in June 2018, having held the role of Managing Director of Land Solutions in Coillte since January 2016. Previous to that, Mark was Managing Director of Coillte Enterprise where he led the development of new businesses in renewable energy, telecommunications, land development and land sales. Before that, from November 2000 to August 2008, Mark was Director of Capital Programmes at Dublin Airport Authority. In this role he was responsible for master planning, permitting, planning and delivery of c. €1.5bn in airport infrastructure at Dublin, Shannon and Cork airports. Prior to that Mark held a number of senior executive roles with multinationals in the Speciality Chemicals and Electronics sectors. Mark has a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering Degree from University College Dublin, a Masters in Industrial Engineering from University College Dublin and has attended Executive development courses in Penn State University and IMD.

Professor Michael Morris: moved to Trinity College Dublin and the School of Chemistry in 2015, following more than 20 years at University College Cork, to lead the Science Foundation Ireland funded research centre AMBER. AMBER (Advanced Materials and BioEngineering Research) is a centre that provides partnership between leading researchers in materials science and industry. To date, Michael has authored over 400 peer reviewed papers and more than 20 patents. As well as academic work, Michael leads a grant on looking at wood as a sustainable source of material, particularly the use of forest waste. He also leads efforts in measuring the impact of circular solutions to new material technologies. He is a member of a technical committee developing standards for the circular economy. Michael also leads the AMBER interaction with the biopharmaceutical research company Merck in developing novel membrane materials and processes, and works with several other collaborating AMBER companies.

Owen Reidy: has been the Assistant General Secretary of the ICTU since November 2016, with particular responsibility for Northern Ireland. The ICTU is the trade union federation for the island of Ireland, with over 750,000 members organised through over 40 affiliate unions with 200,000 members in Northern Ireland. Prior to taking up his role he worked with SIPTU, Irelands largest trade union for 18 years in a number of roles. From 2013-2016 was a member of the SIPTU senior management team.

Professor Siobhan O'Neill: is a Professor of Mental Health Sciences at Ulster University, and Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland. Her research programmes focus on trauma mental illness and suicidal behaviour in Northern Ireland, and the transgenerational transmission of trauma. Now on a mission as the Mental Health Champion to improve the mental health of the people of NI by promoting evidence-based services and care for those who suffer from mental illness and suicidal thoughts. As Mental Health Champion for Northern Ireland, she advises and assists in the promotion of mental health and wellbeing through all policies and services throughout the province. Her role is as a public advocate for mental health, and to be a voice for those otherwise voiceless. Her goal is to communicate the collective voices of people with lived experience and their families and carers, and to advocate for communities impacted by mental health inequalities

Brid O'Brien: is the INOU's Head of Policy and Media and plays a key role in formulating the INOU's policy on unemployment, social protection and the development of an inclusive and equitable labour market; acts as the media spokesperson; has represented the INOU in a range of structures dealing with activation, labour market, education and training policy and delivery; works with colleagues in the community and voluntary sector on issues of social and economic inclusion and justice, equality and human rights; and is one of the outgoing Community and Voluntary Pillar representatives on the National Economic and Social Council.