

# KITCASP

## Key Indicators for Territorial Cohesion and Spatial Planning

Targeted Analysis 2013/2/20

Final Report | 31 October 2013

Part D | Appendix E



This report presents the final results a Targeted Analysis conducted within the framework of the ESPON 2013 Programme, partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

The partnership behind the ESPON Programme consists of the EU Commission and the Member States of the EU28, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Each partner is represented in the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

This report does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members of the Monitoring Committee.

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This basic report exists only in an electronic version.

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## **Appendix E:**

### **Regional Indicators – Ireland**

# Regional Indicators

## Stage 5 – **Draft** Briefing Document for the National Steering Committee 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013

This document contains the outcome of the Indicator Test Run, sample mapping of a select number of indicators and a proposed method of delivery of the full RPG indicator set.

### Regional Planners Network (RPN) 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013



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## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Work on the indicators set arose out of an identified need for a monitoring framework to measure progress in the implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) 2010-2022 and the need to establish a baseline for the RPG mid-term reviews in 2013/2014.

The regional indicators are based around three common RPG themes which are **Economic Prosperity; People and Place;** and **Environment and Infrastructure** seeking to address the overall question as to whether sustainable regions are being achieved. The indicators and associated trends over time will be used to inform and guide the process of future policy development.

In 2012, the Regional Planners Network (RPN) prepared a set of draft indicators in consultation with a variety of stakeholders, which were subsequently presented to the National Steering Committee (NSC) on the 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2012. The indicators sought to identify, measure and monitor trends associated with the objectives contained in the RPGs, and, as such, illustrate progress in achieving more balanced and sustainable regional development. In September, it was agreed that the RPN should proceed with a 'test run' of the indicators, the purpose of which is to ascertain and iron out issues relating to data collection, assembly and analysis, refine indicators, define targets and outputs prior to commencing the detailed baseline establishment work in mid-2013.

### 1.1 Document Structure

The document sets out four sections:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Section 1</b> | Introduction, summary of indicator development methodology and integration with other indicator sets/stakeholders   |
| <b>Section 2</b> | Sets out the indicator themes and respective sub-indicators; it establishes what is to be measured, the scale of measurement, the actual output and whether each indicator works; or recommended changes in each instance |
| <b>Section 3</b> | Outlines sample mapping for a select number of indicators   |

**Section 4**      Outlines the next steps towards completion of the regional indicators



## 1.2 Summary of Regional Indicator Methodology & Interaction with Stakeholders

The following is a summary of the structured process involved in the development of regional indicators and the key stages which emerged:

**Figure 1: Progress to Date**

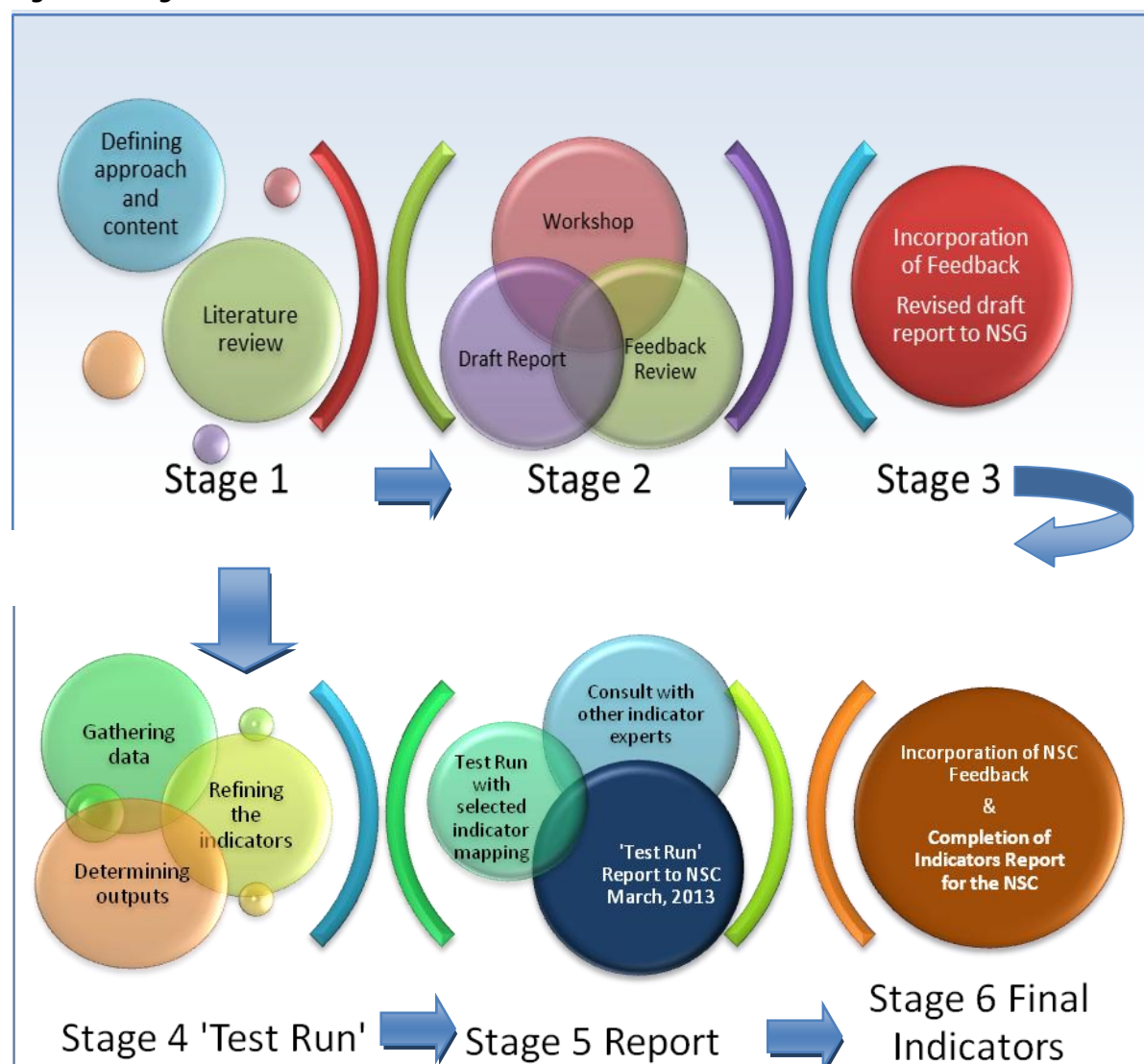


Figure 1 depicts the stages through which the regional indicators development has evolved. Stages 1 to 3 included the defining of an approach to the development of indicators supported by a review of literature including numerous other indicator sets. A draft indicator set was developed which was presented at a workshop to key stakeholders who are involved in economic, demographic and environmental indicator development. The outcomes of the workshop

significantly shaped the approach and indicator set which were presented to the National Steering Committee in September, 2012.

The recent stages are **Stage 4 and 5** which include a 'Test Run' where data was gathered under each theme to determine actual outputs and the indicators were refined (as per Section 2 below);

As noted above, during the development of regional indicators the RPN consulted and engaged with other stakeholders who were developing comparable indicators simultaneously. These include the Regional Assemblies who are compiling the Gateways and Hubs Development Index (GHDI) 2012. The GHDI is an update of the 2009 Fitzpatrick Gateway Development Index.

The National University of Ireland (NUI), Maynooth are developing indicators through an ESPON<sup>1</sup> project entitled KITCASP. KITCASP is assembling national indicators for European regions of comparable size and its indicators must be linked with the Europe 2020 Strategy.

While both sets have similarities, there are subtle differences to the focus and geographical scope of the projects. Despite this, interaction between the Assemblies and NUI has greatly enhanced the development of the RPN regional indicators.

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<sup>1</sup>ESPON - European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion; <http://espon-ireland.ie/>.

## SECTION 2: DRAFT INDICATOR THEMES

### 2.1 Introduction

The development of indicators has evolved over a number of stages (see Figure 1) and this document represents Stage 5 which is the presentation of the 'Test Run' to the NSC, for their consideration and approval. Feedback from the Committee will be considered and incorporated into the final indicator set.

### 2.2 Proposed Regional Indicators

The pages that follow outline the draft indicators under three themes (see below).

Each theme has a table in which key aims and objectives of the RPGs are outlined. Associated with the aims and objectives are the proposed Indicators (including units of measurement and targets) which will provide trends over time.

The outputs and analysis will investigate the impact of RPG policy implementation and, where necessary, how this may need to be altered to achieve more desirable results in the context of achieving more balanced, and therefore, more sustainable, regions.

#### Theme 1: Economic Prosperity

Economic growth is essential to the development of sustainable regions. Whilst Ireland is in the midst of extremely challenging economic and financial circumstances, there are opportunities in new growth areas and in building on existing synergies within each region as outlined in the 2010-2022 RPGs. Successful countries and regions have thriving cities at their core and they in turn drive economic growth so it is essential that urban structure is strengthened within regions and key growth centres (Gateways and Hubs) reach their population targets. The RPGs also recognise that human capital (educational attainment, skills, training) is critical to economic prosperity and a high quality of life. The following aims were established in order to develop indicators for economic prosperity:

- Realisation of the Economic Strategy underpinning the RPG's
- Extend the economic reach of the Gateway cities and towns, Hub towns and other key settlements to act as growth poles and employment centres for their wider hinterlands
- To enable enhancement of the innovation capacity of the regions in line with RPG objectives

**Please refer to Section 2.2.1 below for the relevant table of indicators.**

## Theme 2: People and Place

People make places. Consequently demographic trends and spatial patterns are important components of strategic regional planning and future policy decisions. Population dynamics can provide valuable insights into the manner in which regions are developing and can set down markers for future needs - critical massing around key settlements is important for regional prosperity and sustainable infrastructure planning whilst age structure can have implications for future planning needs surrounding health care, education and housing needs. In order to refine the scope of population trends and determine high level indicators to monitor and track changes in those trends, three key aims were developed:

- To manage spatial growth and distribution in line with the NSS and RPGs
- To ensure suitable housing provisions and appropriate housing land requirements to meet the needs of regions
- To promote sustainable travel options for the region<sup>2</sup>

**Please refer to Section 2.2.2 below for the relevant table of indicators.**

## Theme 3: Environment and Infrastructure

Our economy and society are wholly dependent on the resources and services provided by the natural environment from the supply of clean water, production of food (e.g. agriculture, fishing), pest control, pollination, recycling of waste, carbon sequestration to the provision of medicines. A high quality environment enhances our well-being and quality of life. The RPGs sought to integrate sustainable economic and social development with the protection and enhancement of the natural environment through strategies which first and foremost avoid significant adverse effects on the environment. Much of our environmental policy stems from European and international legislation and many targets have now been established at regional level (e.g. water) with others at national level (e.g. waste, renewable energy). In order to monitor environmental considerations, the following aims were proposed:

- To enable the achievement of regional environmental quality targets by coordinating spatial plans with other relevant environmental plans and strategies (e.g. water quality, climate change and waste)
- To ensure that the development of the region progresses in a way that protects, maintains or enhances the quality of the natural environment in line with national and European legislation

**Please refer to Section 2.2.3 below for the relevant table of indicators.**

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<sup>2</sup> POWSCAR data and indicators under the heading '*economic prosperity*' can be cross referenced with population growth patterns.

## 2.2.1 Theme 1 - Economic Prosperity

RPG Aims and Objectives	Proposed Indicators	UoM	Targets	Data Source (Comments on Availability and Frequency of data)	Presentation of Data (Mapping, Tables, Text, etc.)	Expected Analysis & Outputs	Summary of Actual Outputs and Results of Data Collection Does the indicator work, what recommendations are proposed (e.g. amend, delete or new indicator) and why?
<p><b><u>Aim 1:</u></b> Realisation of the Economic Strategy underpinning the RPG's</p> <p><b><u>Objective 1:</u></b> Enable an increase employment and economic activity in each region</p>	<p><b>1:</b> Population (total and by gender) aged 30-34 with tertiary education</p>	Absolute Values	<p>The National Reform Programme – 2012 Update states that Ireland's Headline Target is: to increase the share of 30-34 year olds who have completed tertiary or equivalent education to at least 60%.</p> <p>Europe 2020 target = to increase the share of 30-34 year olds who have completed tertiary or equivalent education to 40%.</p>	<p>A special tabulation was carried out by the CSO.</p> <p>Information is available from the Census at a City and County level. Another special tabulation would be required at ED level.</p>	<p>Proposed mapping at Regional and County level.</p> <p>It is proposed to have 2 maps that show regions which are below and above National Reform Programme and Europe 2020 targets.</p>	<p>Third level educational attainment is a key pre-requisite in building a globally competitive Smart Economy in accordance with national government policy.</p>	<p><b><u>Comments:</u></b> The indicator reflects the National Reform Programme which in turn is consistent with Europe 2020.</p> <p><b><u>Glossary:</u></b> The Eurostat regional yearbook 2012, which refers specifically to Europe 2020 targets, defines Tertiary education as follows: "Tertiary education is the level of education offered by universities, vocational universities, institutes of technology and other institutions that award academic degrees or professional certificates." For the Regional Indicators it's recommend that we take the Eurostat regional yearbook 2012 definition.</p>
	<p><b>2:</b> Employment rate of population aged between 20-64.</p>	Absolute Values	<p>69-71% of population aged between 20-64 in employment by 2020 (Taken from Irelands National Reform Programme – 2012 Update)</p> <p>Europe 2020 target = 75% of population aged between 20-64 in employment by 2020</p>	<p>A special tabulation was carried out by the CSO. Information to populate this indicator was taken from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). QNHS information would not be accurate at a city and county level however data is available at these levels from the Census. This would require a special tabulation from the CSO.</p>	<p>Proposed mapping at Regional and County level.</p> <p>It is proposed to have 2 maps that show regions which are below and above National Reform Programme and Europe 2020 targets.</p>	<p>-%increase/decrease -While spatial planning cannot directly increase/decrease employment it can assist appreciably in setting the right conditions for employment growth.</p>	<p><b><u>Comments:</u></b> This indicator reflects the National Reform Programme which in turn is consistent with Europe 2020.</p>
<p><b><u>Aim 2:</u></b></p>	<p><b>3a:</b> GVA per person in each</p>	Indices and € per	<p>Increased regional output from baseline</p>	<p>- Available from CSO Stat bank annually up</p>	<p>It is proposed to have a chart which shows</p>	<p>An examination of Gross Value Added (GVA) can</p>	<p><b><u>Glossary:</u></b></p>

RPG Aims and Objectives	Proposed Indicators	UoM	Targets	Data Source (Comments on Availability and Frequency of data)	Presentation of Data (Mapping, Tables, Text, etc.)	Expected Analysis & Outputs	Summary of Actual Outputs and Results of Data Collection Does the indicator work, what recommendations are proposed (e.g. amend, delete or new indicator) and why?
Extend the economic reach of the Gateway cities and towns, Hub towns and other key settlements to act as growth poles and employment centres for their wider hinterlands	region at basic prices  <b>3b:</b> GVA contribution by sector at basic prices	person.  €million per sector	figure	until 2009 - Forfas  While GVA is regarded as an appropriate output indicator available at a regional level there are difficulties in using it below this level.	regions which are below and above the State GVA per person (State = 100%).	increase understanding of the output, value-creating performance, of an economy.  In their 'Regional Competitiveness Agenda', Forfas regards GVA as the most appropriate output indicator available at a regional level.	- <i>Gross Value Added (GVA)</i> : A productivity metric that measures the difference between output and intermediate consumption. Gross value added provides a value for the amount of goods and services that have been produced, less the cost of all inputs and raw materials that are directly attributable to that production. - GVA at basic prices is output at basic prices minus intermediate consumption at purchaser prices. The basic price is the amount receivable by the producer from the purchaser for a unit of a product minus any tax on the product plus any subsidy on the product. - GVA can be broken down by industry. The sum of GVA at basic prices over all industries plus taxes on products minus subsidies on products gives gross domestic product. Gross value added of the total economy usually accounts for more than 90 % of GDP.
<b>Aim 3:</b> To enable enhancement of the innovation capacity of the regions in line with RPG objectives  <b>Objective 1:</b> To ensure an increase in the innovation capacity of each region which in turn will result in increases in employment and economic activity	<b>4:</b> Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)	Total number of SME's per region.	From baseline figure, maintain and increase level of SMEs and IDA companies/number of employees in each region.	- CSO - IDA Ireland  The most up-to-date information for SME's is 2010. SME and IDA information is available down to county level. It is possible to ascertain the number of SME's of various sizes. After a request was sent to the IDA we received up-to-date information for 2012.	Information can be presented through a table.	FDI and SMEs are an important part of the economic recovery strategy. Also larger enterprises tend to be FDI so there is a value in capturing this data for comparative studies. -FDI/SME investment is a proxy for measuring the attractiveness of regions	<b>Glossary:</b> <i>Definition of SME taken from "SMEs in Ireland: Stylised facts from the real economy and credit market."</i> <i>Martina Lawless, Fergal McCann and Tara McIndoe Calder February 29, 2012.</i>  SMEs are defined variously in terms of employment, turnover and asset thresholds. The preferred definition in the above paper, and one often used by Eurostat, relates to employment. The paper cited above define micro firms as those with less than 10 employees, small firms with between 10 and 49, medium-sized firms with between 50 and 249 and large firms with over 249 employees. The lending and credit data presented in the paper from the Central Bank of Ireland and the Credit Review Office data use a combination of employment (<250 employees), turnover (<€50m) and balance sheet (<€43m) criteria to define SMEs. <u>In short, SMEs within the Regional Indicators are defined as firms below 250 employees</u>
	<b>5a:</b> employment in IDA supported companies per region	Total number of IDA supported companies					
	<b>5b:</b> number of IDA supported companies	Total number of employee in IDA supported companies					
	<b>6a:</b> Households with a personal computer	Absolute Number	Increase from the established baseline in the % of people who have a personal computer and who have access to internet.	- DCENR - ComReg - OECD - Eurostat - Forfás  The Census has a specific question on	This can be mapped at Small Area (SA) and ED level using the latest census results which has a specific question on broadband access.		<b>Comments:</b> Information could be extracted from each local authority but this would lead to regional disparities in information and mechanisms would need to be put in place to ensure seamless information.  In addition while data has been examined from Eurostat, OECD, Comreg, Forfas, DCENR, <a href="http://www.netindex.com">www.netindex.com</a> , the Broadband Commission and
	<b>6b:</b> Households with internet access		Increase from the				

RPG Aims and Objectives	Proposed Indicators	UoM	Targets	Data Source (Comments on Availability and Frequency of data)	Presentation of Data (Mapping, Tables, Text, etc.)	Expected Analysis & Outputs	Summary of Actual Outputs and Results of Data Collection Does the indicator work, what recommendations are proposed (e.g. amend, delete or new indicator) and why?
	6c: Broadband coverage		established baseline in the % of areas with broadband coverage	internet access and households with a personal computer thus information can be gathered at a SA and ED level.			<a href="http://www.newmediatrendwatch.com">www.newmediatrendwatch.com</a> . These sources only relate to internet usage, broadband accessibility and user breakdown at a national level. These are used for national broadband planning and in ranking Ireland against other countries. This is not useful in examining broadband access levels and speeds at regional or county level.



## 2.2.2 Theme 2 - People and Place

RPG Aims and Objectives	Proposed Indicators	UoM	Targets	Data Source (Comments on Availability and Frequency of data)	Presentation of Data (Mapping, Tables, Text, etc.)	Expected Analysis & Outputs	Summary of Actual Outputs and Results of Data Collection Does the indicator work, what recommendations are proposed (e.g. amend, delete or new indicator) and why?
<p><b><u>Aim 1:</u></b> To manage spatial growth and distribution in line with the RPGs</p> <p><b><u>Objective 1:</u></b> Support the sustainable growth of Gateways, Hubs and Tier 1 settlements as identified within the RPG Settlement Hierarchy</p>	<b>1a:</b> Total Population by Region, Gateway, Hub & Tier 1 settlement	Absolute Population	Achieve RPG population targets in Gateway, Hubs and Tier 1 towns by 2022	- 5 Yearly inter census CSO records and reports - AIRO - MyPlan, - Geo-directory mapping	Mapping possible through time series census data.  Also possible to develop annual updates using Geo-directory	% change in population trends, in particular urban/rural ratios	<p><b><u>Comments:</u></b> The indicator takes cognisance of EU spatial planning perspectives and the NSS regarding polycentric management approaches for settlement growth. This is a simple indicator that works well – spatial element (mapping) and visual (graphs) would assist regarding impact and clarity providing a strong visual statement with clear comparative results.</p> <p>This indicator set utilises readily available datasets and yields information that is directly relevant to RPG objectives and can be tiered for greater analysis within the remit of the RPGs and further down into county and local level as required. Initial results indicate that the correlation between regional settlement strategies and patterns of spatial development in some regions requires further alignment. For example, in the Dublin area, while there was an overall increase in population in both the metropolitan area and hinterland, the growth in the hinterland appears to be greater in both percentage and absolute terms.</p> <p>Similarly, while the overall population in the Midland Region has increased in line with overall identified targets, the tier 1 towns have performed well; it would appear, at the expense of the linked-gateway.</p> <p>Population based on aggregate urban and rural population provides an indication of urban and rural growth and the diversity of regions. The Dublin Region which is largely urban in nature remains unchanged between 2006 - 2011 census with an urban population of c.98%. All other regions have shown a % shift to urbanisation.</p> <p>The total population in the Midland region has increased by 12% over the period from 2006 to 2011. This is in line with the targets for the region as outlined in the RPGs up to 2016 and 2022, which require further increases of 6% over each period respectively. When broken down into the constituent linked-gateway and tier 1 towns, it is evident that the linked-gateway has not performed in terms of population growth, while the Tier 1 towns have been on target in the case of Longford and outperformed, exceeding the 2016 target in the case of Portlaoise. Significant redistribution of population ratios over hierarchical tiers within the urban network and across the urban/rural divide are required to realize the settlement pattern as defined.</p> <p>The total population within the Dublin Region increased by 7.2% between 2006-11. During the same period the population increased by 11.7%. While there was an overall increase in population in both the metropolitan area and hinterland, the growth in the hinterland appears to be greater in both percentage and absolute terms.</p>
	<b>1b:</b> Population change by Region, Gateway, Hub & Tier 1 settlements (i.e. key regionally significant settlements as per RPGs)	Absolute change in population	To increase the overall % of people living in designated urban growth areas than rural areas within regions				
	<b>2a:</b> Urban/ rural population ratio	Ratio					
	<b>2b:</b> Gateway and Hub/ rural population ratio	Ratio					

Region	Year	%urban	%rural
Dublin	2006	98	2
	2011	98	2



RPG Aims and Objectives	Proposed Indicators	UoM	Targets	Data Source (Comments on Availability and Frequency of data)	Presentation of Data (Mapping, Tables, Text, etc.)	Expected Analysis & Outputs	Summary of Actual Outputs and Results of Data Collection Does the indicator work, what recommendations are proposed (e.g. amend, delete or new indicator) and why?																									
							<table><tr><td>Mid-East</td><td>2006</td><td>61</td><td>39</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>2011</td><td>63</td><td>37</td></tr><tr><td>Midland</td><td>2006</td><td>41</td><td>59</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>2011</td><td>45</td><td>55</td></tr><tr><td>Mid-West</td><td>2006</td><td>45</td><td>55</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>2011</td><td>47</td><td>53</td></tr></table> <p>Population based on aggregate urban and rural population provides an indication of urban and rural growth and the diversity of regions. The Dublin Region which is largely urban in nature, remains unchanged between 2006-11 with an urban population of c.98%. All other regions have shown a % shift to urbanization.</p> <p><b>Glossary:</b> Central Statistical Office Population Records, periodical up to 2011; <b>Gateways and Hubs:</b> These settlements as so defined in the NSS; <b>Tier 1 Towns:</b> as defined in relevant County Development Plans in line with the provisions of the RPGs; <b>Urban/ Rural:</b> definition as per CSO census of Population; <b>GeoDirectory:</b> is point data for all households in the country compiled by An Post and Ordnance Survey Ireland.</p>	Mid-East	2006	61	39		2011	63	37	Midland	2006	41	59		2011	45	55	Mid-West	2006	45	55		2011	47	53	
Mid-East	2006	61	39																													
	2011	63	37																													
Midland	2006	41	59																													
	2011	45	55																													
Mid-West	2006	45	55																													
	2011	47	53																													
	3: Dependency Ratio	Young age/ Old Age and total dependency ratio	No target	- Available from the CSO	SA and ED level through census. Time series available May be useful to look at this by region county and gateway for regional reporting. Figures can be drilled down at sub regional level.	% increase/ decrease young/ old dependency ratio	<p><b>Comments:</b> This indicator is useful to indicate alignment of services with existing and/ or future potential need such as access to targeted healthcare facilities in the case of areas with a higher old age dependency ratio and education where the young age dependency ratio is high. Figures are available at Small Area level, facilitating national to sub-county analysis.</p> <p>The data can be readily populated – data for the Midlands shows high total dependency ratio, dominated by the younger 0-14 age group, but also that a polarization appear to be happening where there are older and younger DEDs. Maps may be needed to indicate where services are required and included in a commentary on the following sections such as access to healthcare and education.</p> <p>The key issue here is dependency ratio. An ageing population + high proportion of births has implications for regional economies and regional service provision including health, housing, schools, etc</p> <p><b>Glossary:</b> Central Statistical Office Population Records, periodical up to 2011; <b>Young age dependency</b> is the proportion of the population aged under 14, while those over 65 are defined in the <b>old-age dependency</b> bracket.</p>																									
Aim 2: To	4a: Total housing stock by Region,	Absolute housing stock	Achieve RPG Housing targets in	- CSO quarterly/ annual reports	Available at SA and ED level through	% change in housing stock	<p><b>Comments:</b> Populated by CSO data, and potentially supplements DECLG and Local Authority</p>																									

RPG Aims and Objectives	Proposed Indicators	UoM	Targets	Data Source (Comments on Availability and Frequency of data)	Presentation of Data (Mapping, Tables, Text, etc.)	Expected Analysis & Outputs	Summary of Actual Outputs and Results of Data Collection Does the indicator work, what recommendations are proposed (e.g. amend, delete or new indicator) and why?
<p>ensure suitable housing provisions to meet the needs of regions</p> <p><b>Objective 1:</b> To provide a policy framework for the sustainable supply &amp; distribution of housing stock and housing lands to support RPG population growth and distribution</p>	<p>Gateway, Hub &amp; Tier 1 settlement</p> <p><b>4b:</b> Housing vacancy -by Region, Gateway, Hub &amp; Tier 1 settlement</p>	Absolute values in housing vacancy	<p>Gateway, Hubs and Tier 1 towns by 2022</p> <p>To reduce overall regional vacancy levels below 2011 averages by 2022</p>	<p>- DECLG Annual Planning/ Housing Returns</p> <p>- AIRO</p> <p>- Local Authorities Annual HLA housing, and 3 yearly LA housing returns</p> <p>- Geo directory</p>	census. Possible to work on annual data through GeoDirectory and DoEHLG Unfinished survey	% change in housing vacancy	<p>sources for intercensal updates, this indicator illustrates the relationship between housing stock, vacancy rates and, when combined with the other indicators in this section, regional population targets and the dwellings required to achieve these in designated areas, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Figures for the Midland Region from the CSO indicate that a significant rebalance is required in the levels of housing stock between the linked gateway, tier 1 towns and the remainder of the region (current ratio 20:11:69, planned 26:10:64). Figures show that there is considerable housing stock required in order to meet population requirements in the linked gateway even when vacancy rates are taken into account, however, the tier 1 towns would appear to have significant oversupply when vacant dwellings are included.</li> <li>The Greater Dublin Area has a vacancy rate of c.8.7% which is below the State average of c14.7%. At a county level, there has been an overall decrease in vacancy rates between 2006 and 2011 within the GDA. There are variations of vacancy levels across the region with Dublin City at 10.7% and South Dublin having a vacancy rate of c.5.5% - (the lowest level in the country).</li> </ul> <p><b>Glossary</b> Central Statistical Office Population Records, periodical up to 2011. Figures used in this assessment have been taken from CSO figures and would need to be refined with those from geodirectory and augmented with unfinished housing estate data. <b>Vacancy</b> as a definition needs to be agreed. <b>Geodirectory</b> was established by <a href="#">An Post</a> and <a href="#">Ordnance Survey Ireland</a> to identify the precise address and location of every residential and commercial property in the State. The process assigns each property its own individual fingerprint – a unique, verified address in standardised format, together with a precise geocode. <b>DECLG Annual Planning/ Housing Land Availability (HLA) returns</b> provide data on the total amount of housing land availability within a functional area and the amount of this housing land in the ownership of the local authority. This process was updated recently via Circular Housing No27/2012. Data for 2012 is due shortly and can be used to look at trends in housing land management. This can be augmented by the Statutory Assessment of Housing Need in 2013, as provided for under Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009. It is envisaged that this extract will provide both the Department and local authorities with an up-to-date picture of demand for social housing support in each local authority area and nationally.</p>
	<p><b>5a:</b> Serviced residential zoned land by Region, Gateway, Hub &amp; Tier 1 settlement</p> <p><b>5b:</b> Unserviced</p>	Residential/ Hectares	Ultimately all residentially zoned land should be serviced however some RPGs may have targets in	<p>- Local Authorities (HLAS)</p> <p>- MyPlan</p>	Could be mapped via MyPlan	<p>% of serviced residential zoned development land in Gateway, Hub &amp; Tier 1 settlement</p> <p>% of serviced</p>	<p><b>Comments</b> The most recent <b>2012 HLA DATA FROM DECLG</b> is required to ensure a coordinated approach to examining trends. Therefore these <b>INDICATORS HAVE NOT BEEN POPULATED TO DATE.</b></p> <p><b>Glossary</b> <b>DECLG Annual Planning/ Housing Land Availability (HLA) returns</b> provide data on the</p>

RPG Aims and Objectives	Proposed Indicators	UoM	Targets	Data Source (Comments on Availability and Frequency of data)	Presentation of Data (Mapping, Tables, Text, etc.)	Expected Analysis & Outputs	Summary of Actual Outputs and Results of Data Collection Does the indicator work, what recommendations are proposed (e.g. amend, delete or new indicator) and why?
	residential zoned land by Region, Gateway, Hub & Tier 1 settlement		this regard. These figures may inform regions where targets are not cited			residential development land in Gateway, Hub & Tier 1 settlement	total amount of housing land availability within your functional area and the amount of this housing land in the ownership of the local authority. This process was updated recently via Circular Housing No27/2012. Data for 2012 is due shortly and can be used to look at trends in housing land management.
<b><u>Aim 3:</u></b> To promote sustainable travel options and greater accessibility for the Gateways, Hubs and Tier 1 settlements	<b>6a:</b> Work-related commuting by car, bus, rail, bicycle and walking  <b>6b:</b> Population both living and working in Gateways, Hubs and Tier 1 settlements	Absolute values	Work-related commuting by car will be reduced from a current modal share of 65% to 45% by 2020 (Smarter Travel);  Increase % of population living and working in the Gateways, Hubs and Tier 1 settlements	- CSO Census POWSCAR - NTA/ DoT - Airo/MyPlan	Mapped using POWSCAR data or displayed in tables	Trends towards key Smarter Travel objectives	Please refer to sample mapping below.

### 2.2.3 Theme 3 - Environment and Infrastructure

RPG Aims and Objectives	Proposed Indicators	UoM	Targets	Data Source (Comments on Availability and Frequency of data)	Presentation of Data (Mapping, Tables, Text, etc.)	Expected Analysis & Outputs	Summary of Actual Outputs and Results of Data Collection Does the indicator work, what recommendations are proposed (e.g. amend, delete or new indicator) and why?
<p><b><u>Aim 1:</u></b> To enable the achievement of regional environmental quality targets by coordinating spatial plans with other relevant environmental plans and strategies (e.g. water quality, climate change and waste)</p> <p><b><u>Objective 1:</u></b> Achieve objectives and targets of Water Framework Directive River Basin District (RBD) Management Plans within each region; and remove existing water and wastewater bottlenecks/ deficits to support key RPGs growth centres</p>	<p><b>1:</b> Status of all water bodies (groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine, coastal, bathing, drinking waters)</p>	<p>Actual Status [EPA defined status of water bodies as per Water Framework Directive]</p>	<p>Achieve ‘good (ecological) status’ by 2015 (or consecutive time-frames) as set out in RBMPs</p> <p>Achieve RBD objectives for 2015, 2021 and 2027</p>	<p>- RBD Coordinators/ WFD RBD Reporting</p> <p>- EPA</p> <p>- Local Authority</p> <p>- Irish Water</p>	<p>- Map format based on WFD RBD/EPA datasets (Composite maps for indicators 1-3 to be explored)</p> <p>- This can also be divided up by RBD and displayed in Tables</p>	<p>This data gives an indication of the impact of urban and rural development on water quality in the regions</p> <p>It will identify where existing water and wastewater investments are maintaining or improving water quality and will assist in providing rationale for future investment in priority strategic infrastructure, in particular to support key RPG growth settlements</p>	<p><b><u>Comments:</u></b> This indicators determines whether each RBD is reaching ‘satisfactory’ ecological status and whether RBD objectives for 2015, 2021 and 2027 are being met (for example, in the Shannon IRBD 30-40% of coastal, estuaries, lakes and reservoirs, rivers and canals have satisfactory ecological status and ground water is 75% satisfactory so all other waters need to improve). The indicator data will be available every six years and is scientifically sound.</p> <p>Many water dependent habitats will be improved if overall water quality improves (e.g. Register of Protected Areas – nutrient sensitive or salmonid waters) and this is therefore a proxy indicator for Aim 2 below.</p> <p><b><u>Glossary:</u></b> The <b>Water Framework Directive (WFD)</b> sets out four core objectives to be achieved by 2015 for all waters which are 1) Prevention deterioration; 2) Restore good status; 3) Reduce chemical pollution; and 4) Achieve protected areas objectives (Shannon IRBMP, 2009). It is estimated that implementation of the measures in the RBMPs will result in good status being achieved for many waters in the first plan cycle, with further improvements during later plan cycles.</p>
	<p><b>2:</b> Settlements (Main RPG settlements/ County Towns) in compliance with UWWTD Discharge License</p> <p><b>3:</b> Actual and Surplus wastewater treatment capacity in Gateway, Hub &amp;</p>	<p>Absolute number Pass/Fail BOD, COD, SS/ Discharges to Nutrient Sensitive waters</p> <p>Population Equivalent</p>	<p>100% of main RPG settlements to achieve compliance with UWWTD Discharge License by 2015 in line with the WFD</p> <p>RPG growth centres to have adequate water and wastewater treatment capacity to meet RPG population targets</p>	<p>- EPA WWT Reports / EPA Mapping</p> <p>- WSIP</p>	<p>- Table or map format (identifying where settlements are in compliance with or non-compliant with the UWWTD)</p> <p>- Table or map format (identifying Adequate or Limited Capacity)</p> <p>- Composite maps for indicators 1-3 to</p>	<p>This will also outline the transforming ecological status of water bodies and as a proxy for water dependent habitats and species.</p>	<p><b><u>Comments:</u></b> Firstly a table of information will be collected (RPG Towns, CSO population, Core Strategy target and identifies whether there is adequate or limited water or wastewater capacity (local authority estimation and may not include new industry capacity additions, etc.), status of WSIP projects (completed/to start, etc.)). These are compared to UWWT status, i.e. passed/ failed or failed due to a particular reason based on EPA analysis.</p> <p>This information can be mapped - displaying key settlements with adequate and limited water and wastewater capacity via a red or blue flag, etc. and identify UWWT compliance. Comments on the level of treatment at each location and the WSIP improvements required for persistent water or wastewater problems, will be included.</p>

RPG Aims and Objectives	Proposed Indicators	UoM	Targets	Data Source (Comments on Availability and Frequency of data)	Presentation of Data (Mapping, Tables, Text, etc.)	Expected Analysis & Outputs	Summary of Actual Outputs and Results of Data Collection Does the indicator work, what recommendations are proposed (e.g. amend, delete or new indicator) and why?
	Tier 1 settlements				be explored		<p>The indicators can be combined into one table and a composite map between this section and the WFD indicator can be created.</p> <p><b>Glossary:</b>  <b>Urban Waste Water</b> is domestic waste water or a mixture of domestic and industrial waste water. <b>Waste water discharges</b> from agglomerations greater than 500 population equivalent (p.e.) require a waste water discharge licence and discharges less than 500 p.e. require a certificate of authorisation.</p>
<p><b><u>Aim 1:</u></b> To enable the achievement of regional environmental quality targets by coordinating spatial plans with other relevant environmental plans and strategies (e.g. water quality, climate change and waste)</p> <p><b><u>Objective 2:</u></b> Achieve climate change and waste targets in line with EU, International or national targets</p>	<p><b>4a:</b> Renewable Energy generation (Wind, Hydro, Biomass, etc.)</p> <p><b>4b:</b> Total Energy consumption by region</p>	<p>Megawatts (MWs) and overall %</p> <p>MWs</p>	<p>The Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC requires that renewable sources contribute 16% of final energy consumption (electricity, heat and transport) by 2020; and National target is 40% of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2020</p>	<p>- SEAI - EirGrid - ESB Networks - IWEA - Meitheal Na Gaoithe - DECLG/ DCENR</p>	<p>- Table Format or map with MWs of energy produced in each region or % breakdown by energy generation.</p>	<p>The 2012 ‘Strategy for Renewable Energy’, estimates that an average of an extra 200 MW must be connected to the national grid every year to deliver the 2020 target</p> <p>Trends - % increase/ total MWs of energy generated) verses the demand provision from renewable sources/ fossil fuels</p>	<p><b>Comments:</b> EirGrid produce key statistics related to the electricity transmission system and electricity usage patterns (energy consumption and generation). Details of ‘Installed Renewable Capacity (MW)’ (wind, hydro, other) is available by county/ region (e.g. 148MW wind generated in West Region in early 2012). Commentary must include reference to environmental sensitivities in certain regions (e.g. for wind energy developments).</p> <p><b>Glossary:</b>  <b>Climate change</b> is underway and is occurring as a result of both natural processes/ factors and due to human activities through our emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs). The global aim is to tackle climate change resulting from GHGs which are changing the composition of the earth’s atmosphere. The burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas and peat is contributing to climate change. <b>Renewable energy</b> is energy that comes from natural resources such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves and geothermal heat; and <b>Installed renewable energy</b> refers to the installations which generate such energy such as wind turbines.</p>
	<p><b>5:</b> Unserviced occupied households (unmanaged waste arising)</p> <p><b>6:</b> Collected and Brought Municipal (Household)</p>	<p>% of unmanaged regional waste (based on county level data)</p> <p>Tonnes (based on county level data)</p>	<p>Reduce levels of unmanaged waste, meet other municipal (household waste) targets in line with Changing Our Ways (DECLG) or Regional Waste Plans targets and Waste Framework Directive</p>	<p>- EPA - Regional Waste Offices - EuroStat - CSO QNHS</p>	<p>- Table or Map with: % unserviced households by Regional Authority Area and total Collected and Brought waste in tonnes</p>	<p>Data will be compared with the national average and commentary will be provided on whether national targets (managed waste) are being: 1) achieved, 2) not achieved; or</p>	<p><b>Comments:</b> While levels of economic activity have reduced the amount of waste produced, it is expected to increase based on ESRI ISus forecast. Household waste is the largest component of Municipal waste, however a distinction is drawn between municipal waste ‘generated’ and ‘managed’, the latter concerning itself only with municipal waste that is either collected or brought directly to waste facilities or home composted. There was a county average of 29% unserviced occupied households in Ireland in 2010 (EPA, 2012) which is a high level of unmanaged waste (though this figure includes areas where there is no kerbside</p>

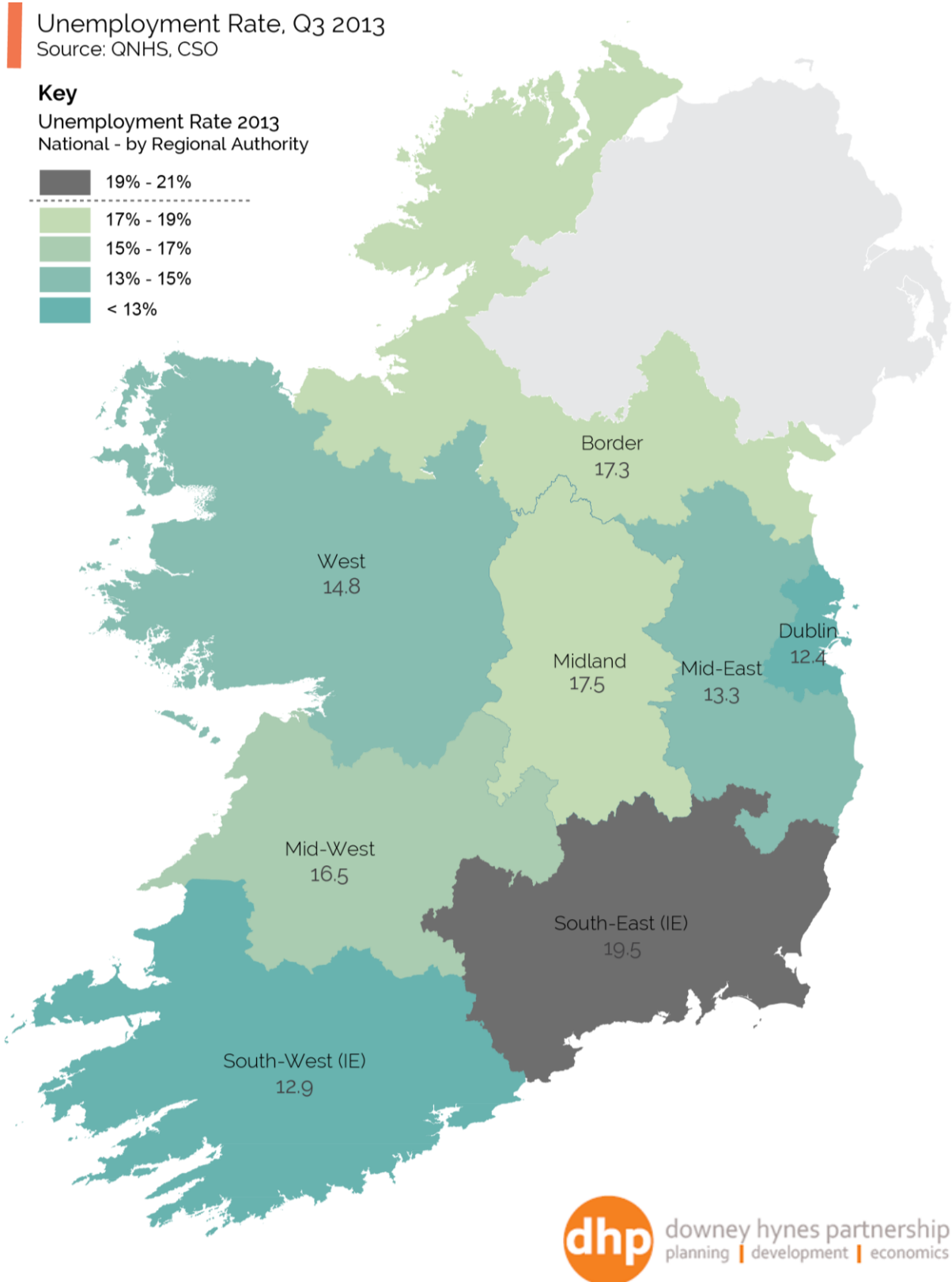


RPG Aims and Objectives	Proposed Indicators	UoM	Targets	Data Source (Comments on Availability and Frequency of data)	Presentation of Data (Mapping, Tables, Text, etc.)	Expected Analysis & Outputs	Summary of Actual Outputs and Results of Data Collection Does the indicator work, what recommendations are proposed (e.g. amend, delete or new indicator) and why?
	waste (managed waste)		(S.I. 126/2009)			3) are on track	collection services especially in rural areas, fly-tipping, use of civic amenity sites or use of landfill sites. etc.).  The EPA has statistics on household waste collected/ person/ (t) by county (managed waste) but does not have total household waste generated (unmanaged waste). The analysis will determine if achievements have been met for municipal (household) waste and whether unmanaged waste is increasing or reducing. There are ten waste regions with varying levels of reporting and a new national waste policy is expected along with regional reform in 2013/14.
<p><b>Aim 2:</b> To ensure that the development of the region progresses in a way that protects, maintains or enhances the quality of the natural environment in line with national and European legislation</p> <p><b>Objective 1:</b> Ensure settlement patterns do not adversely impact on protected European habitats and species</p>	7: Status of EU protected habitats and species (National level only)	Conservation Status [as Defined in EU Directives]	Halt deterioration, maintain or achieve favourable conservation status of protected European habitats and species in each region	-DAHG NPWS Article 17 (Habitats Directive) Reports 2007, 2013, etc. <sup>3</sup> and Article 12 (Birds Directive) Reports 2013, etc.;	Table Format (Good, Bad, Poor or Unknown) available at a national level	The national outlook and % increase/ decrease of favourable conservation status (good, poor, bad or unknown)	<p><b>Comments:</b> It is proposed to use the national EU protected habitats and species indicator as regional or county data is unavailable (not delineated). Habitats Directive Art. 17 and Birds Directive 12 2013 Status of EU Habitats and Species reports are being prepared at present.</p> <p>This will serve as a proxy indicator in relation to the overall integrity of the Natura 2000 sites as there is no Special Area of Conservation or Special Protection Area level reporting at present. It is also proposed to cross-reference this with WFD status as a proxy indicator.</p> <p>National conservation objective monitoring (monitoring of national resources and the status of all habitats (including European Sites) will be conducted in the future and may be a suitable addition/ replacement for this indicator.</p> <p><b>Glossary:</b> <b>Natura 2000 Network</b> – consists of pSPAs/SPAs and cSACs/SACs across Europe. This is an ecological infrastructure for the protection of rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats and species. The aim is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. Natura 2000 is not a system of strict nature reserves where all human activities are excluded. Most of the land is likely to continue to be privately owned and the emphasis is on ensuring that future management is sustainable, both ecologically and economically.</p>

<sup>3</sup> NPWS (2008) Status of EU Habitats and Species in Ireland <http://www.npws.ie/publications/euconservationstatus/>

## SECTION 3: SAMPLE MAPPED INDICATORS

The following is a sample of the potential 'mapped outputs' from the regional indicators:

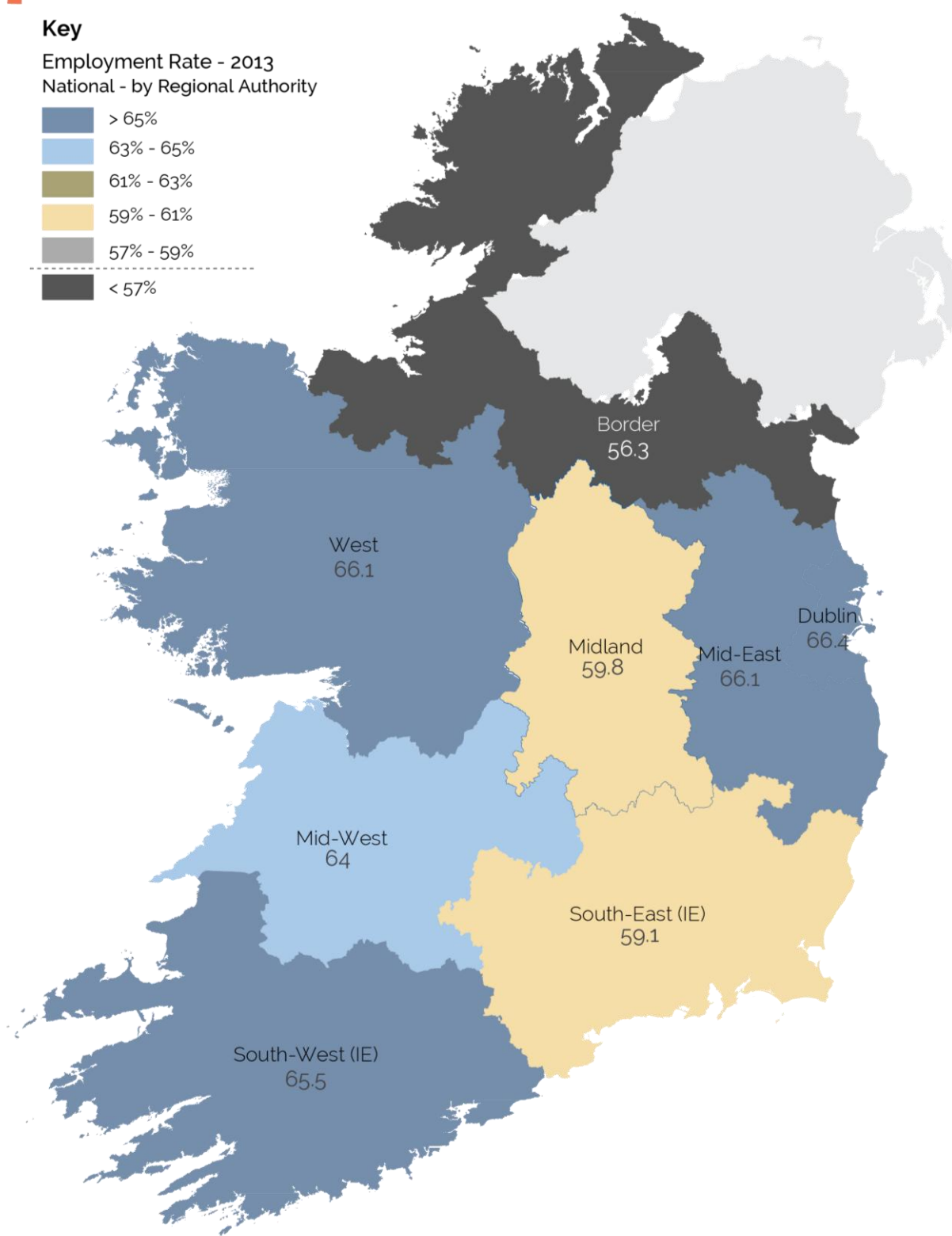
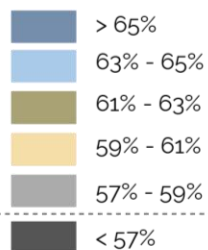


## Employment Rate, Q3 2013

Source: QNHS, CSO

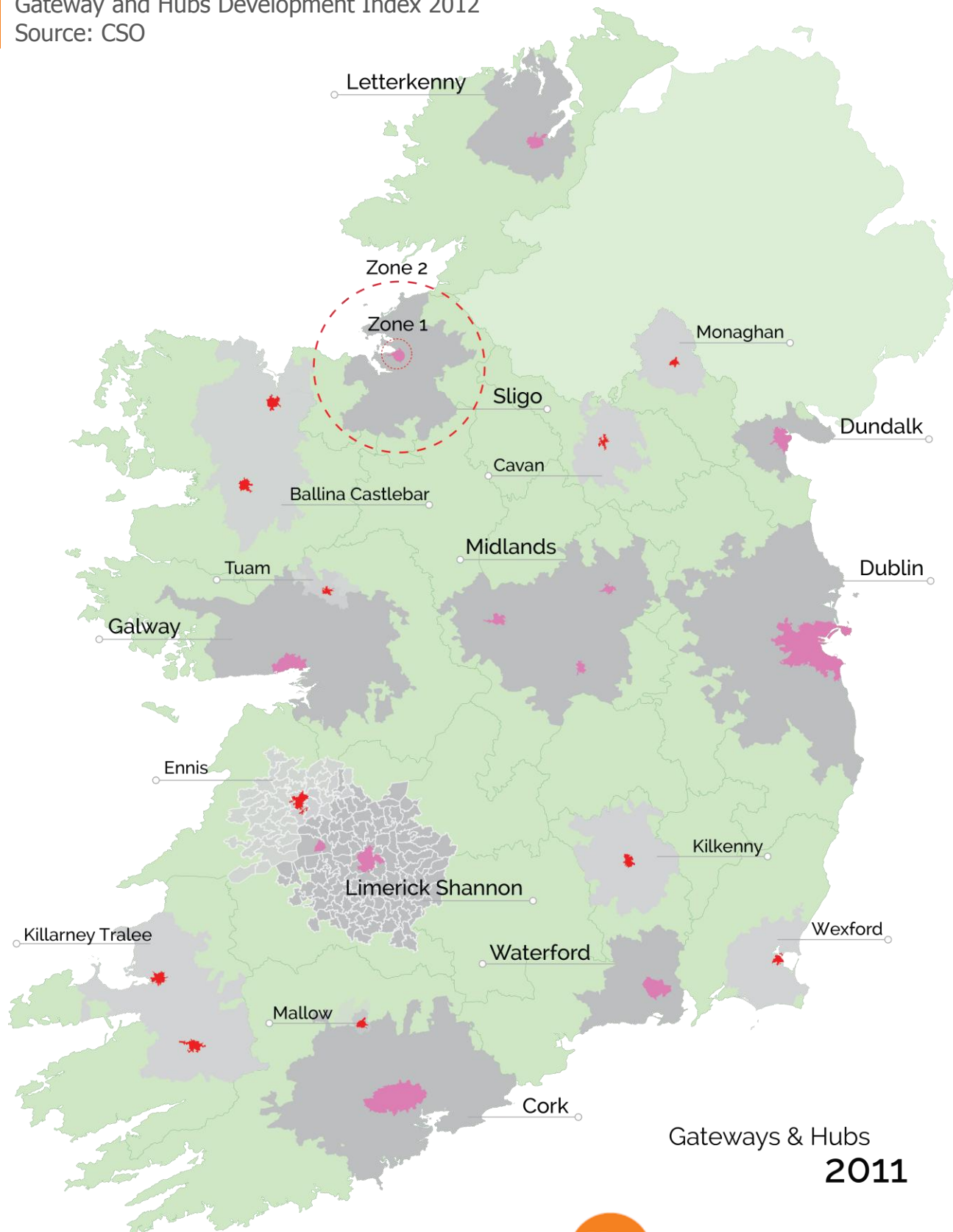
### Key

Employment Rate - 2013  
National - by Regional Authority





Gateway and Hubs Development Index 2012  
Source: CSO



Gateways & Hubs  
**2011**

## Work-based Commuting

Mode of Transport

Source: CSO, 2011

### Key

Travel-to-Work Patterns - '11

Percentage Non-Car Use

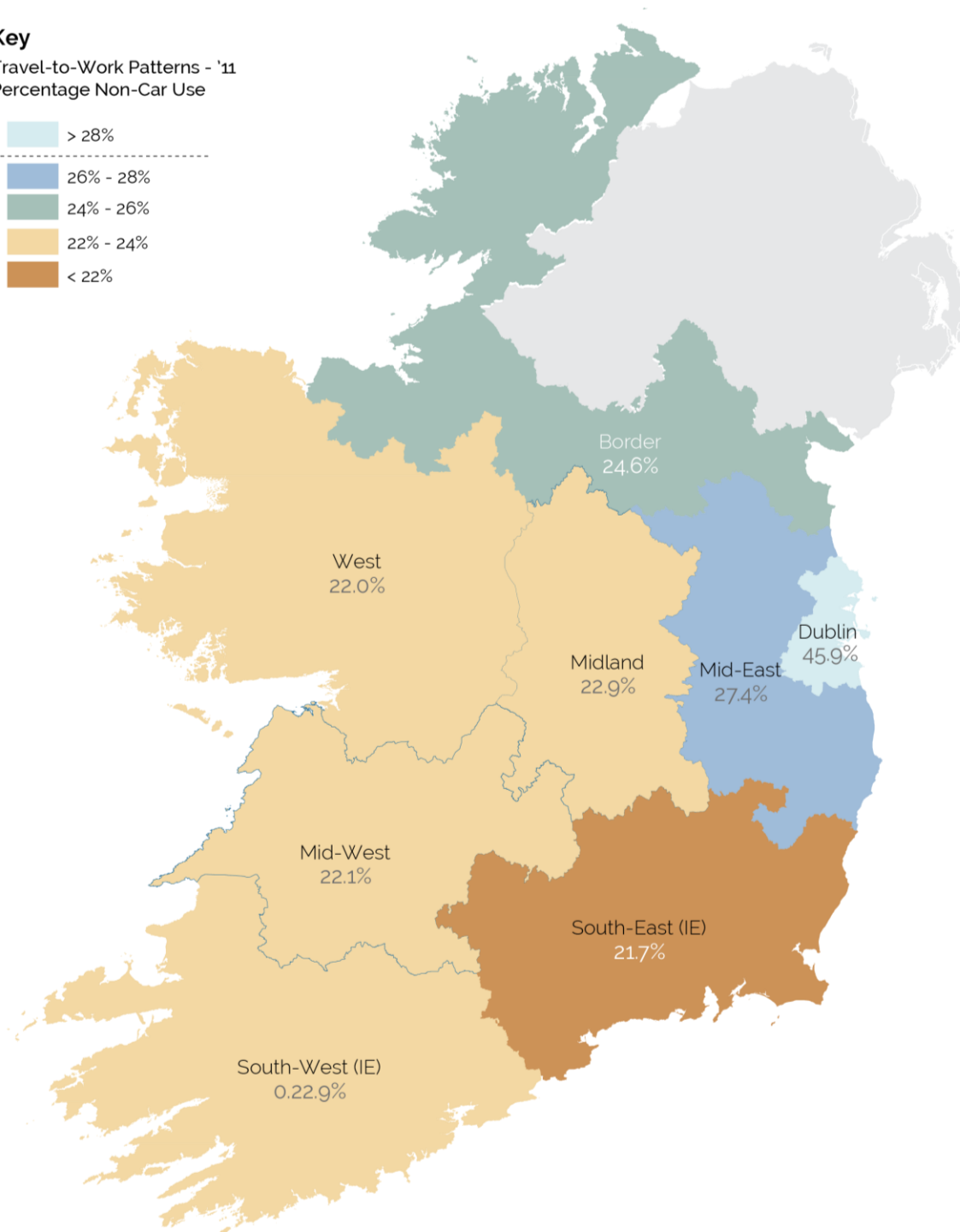
> 28%

26% - 28%

24% - 26%

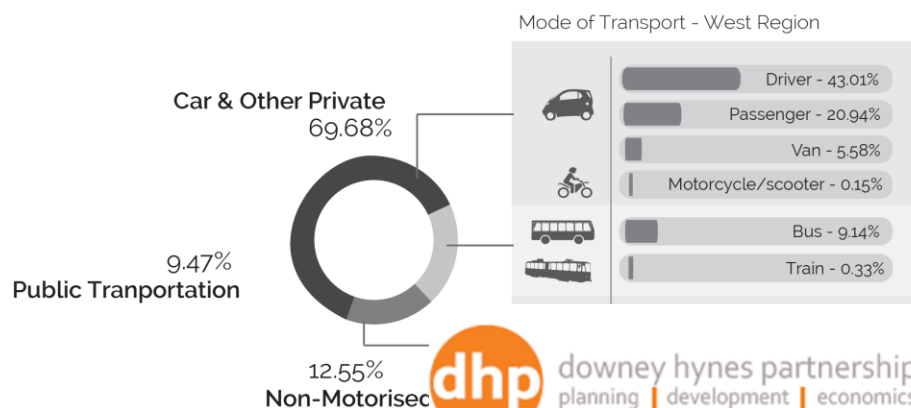
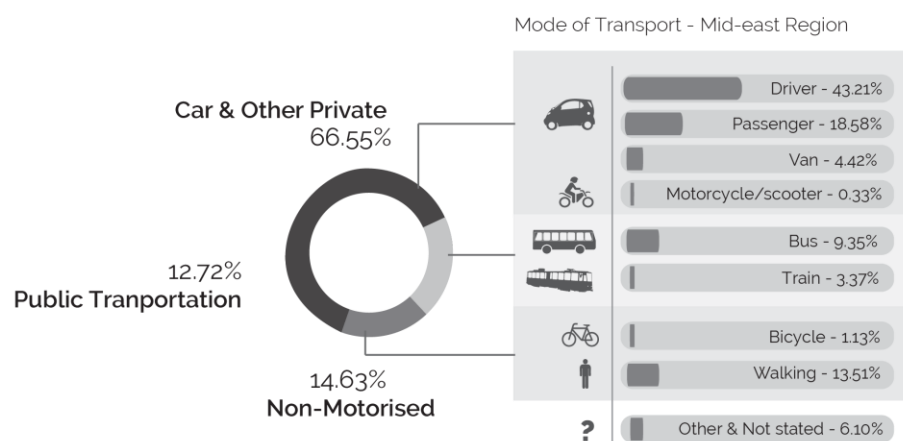
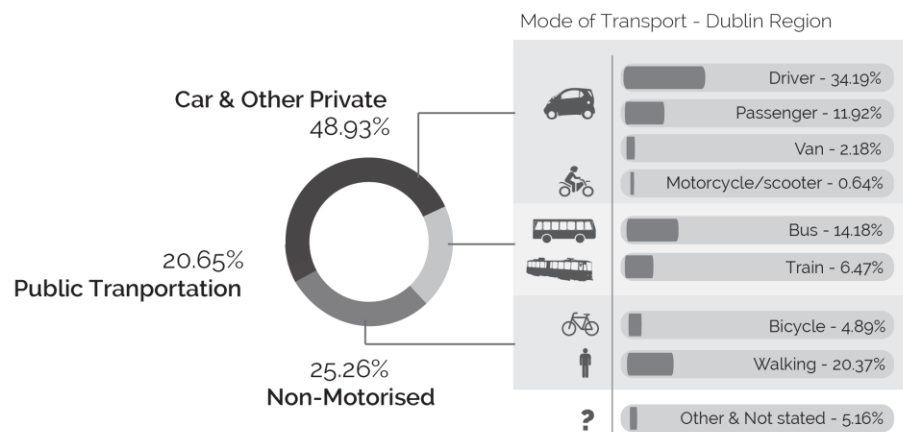
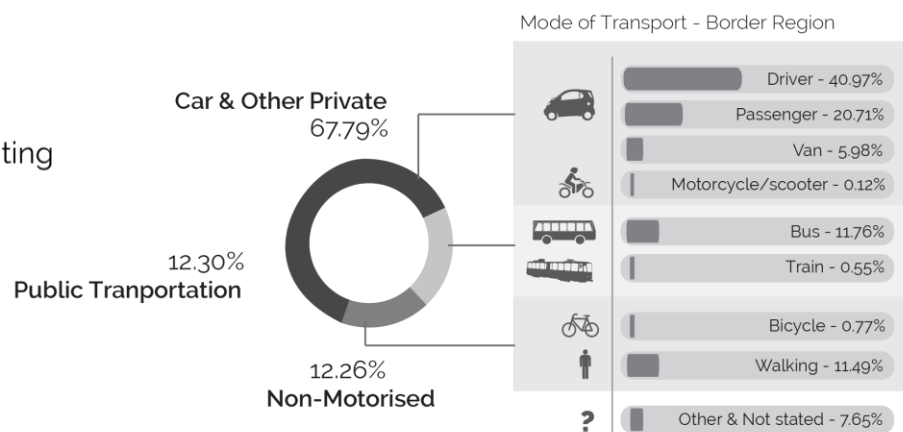
22% - 24%

< 22%

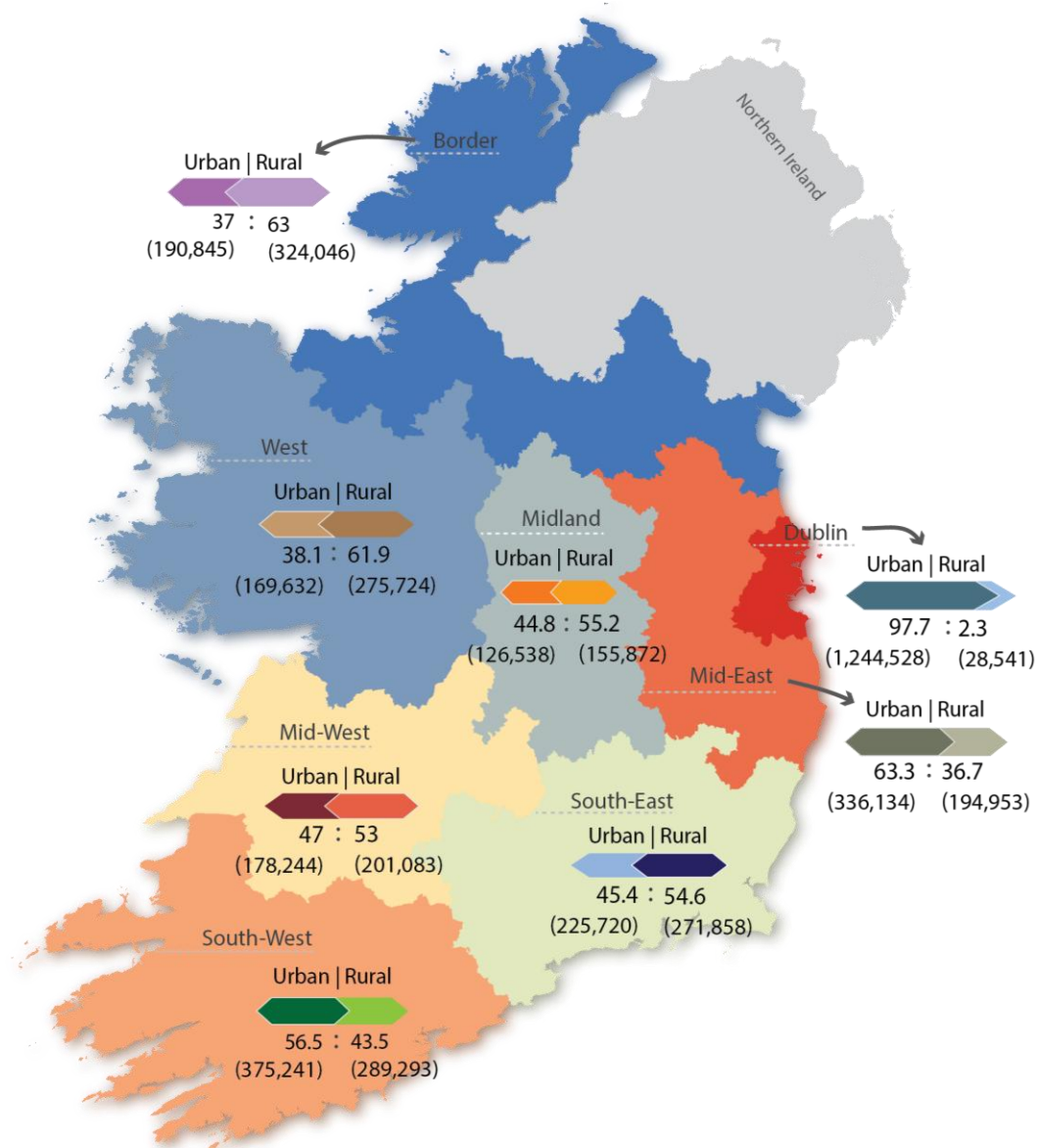
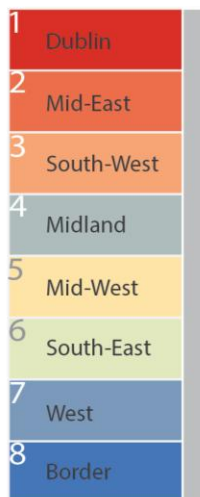


Non-Car; - Walking, Cycling, or Public Transport

Work-based Commuting  
Mode of Transport  
Source: CSO, 2011



## Rank Urbanisation



### Linked Hub Key Statistics

#### Ballina Hub

Population 2006	10,409
Population 2011	11,086
Percent Change '06-'11	+6.5



#### Castlebar Hub

Population 2006	11,891
Population 2011	12,318
Percent Change '06-'11	+3.6



\*Incl. Town and Environs

### Hub Key Statistics

#### Tuam Hub

Population 2006	6,885
Population 2011	8,242
Percent Change '06-'11	+19.7



\*Incl. Town and Environs

### Gateway Key Statistics

#### Galway Gateway

Population 2006	72,414
Population 2011	75,529
Percent Change '06-'11	+4.3



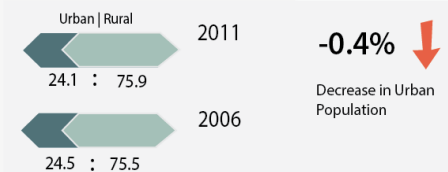
### Rest of West Region

Population 2006:	312,678
Population 2011:	338,181
Percent Change '06-'11:	8.2%

### Hubs & Gateways (West Region)

Population 2006:	101,599
Population 2011:	107,175
Percent Change '06-'11:	7.5%

### Urban Growth in Gateways and Hubs

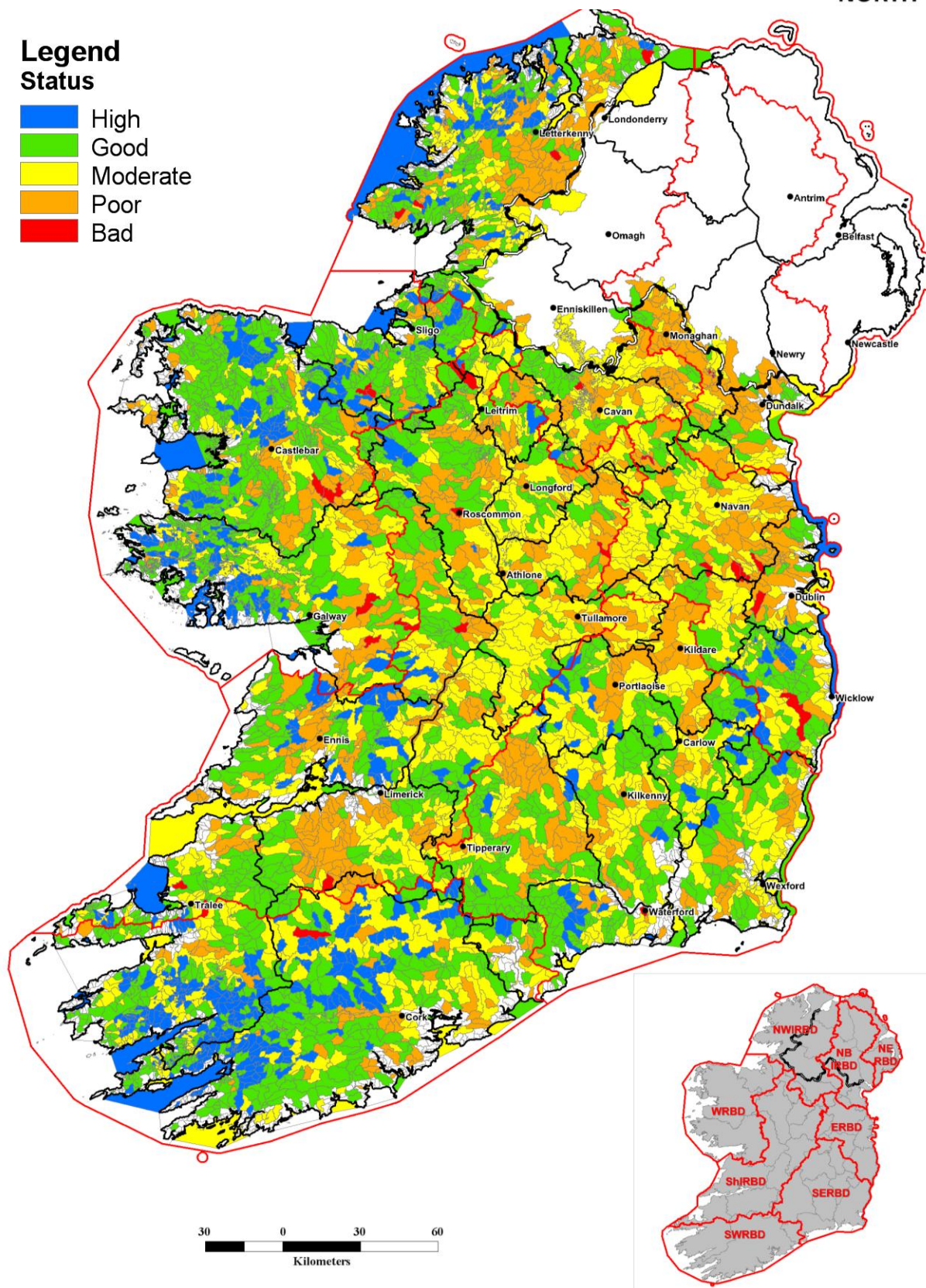


\*Equates to Gateways & Hubs and not all Towns





### Legend Status



## SECTION 4: CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

RPN members divided the indicator themes among them and populated the indicator set (for example, the South-East and West gathered data for 'Environment and Infrastructure' indicators, while other RPN members collected data for 'Economic Prosperity' and 'People and Place').

Following much debate and consideration of outputs, **twenty indicators**<sup>4</sup> are now proposed. Such indicator outputs must be disseminated in a universally understandable form. Downey Hynes Partnership (DHP), who have expertise in indicator presentation, provided the RPN with sample mapping (refer to Section 3) for a select number of indicators for the Test Run. This thematic mapping depicts spatial trends and relationships in an accessible way. It is anticipated that in the final monitoring report, such maps/ tables will be accompanied by a minimum of narrative. In this manner, information can be disseminated rapidly and be used to inform policy formulation processes.

The DECLG have indicated that they will contribute towards the cost of such expertise and there has been a firm commitment by the RPN throughout this process toward minimising costs and maximising use of resources by availing of synergies where they arise<sup>5</sup> and it is considered that the 'Test Run' has contributed to the reduction of potential costs.

Of particular relevance to this process is the current review of the Gateway and Hubs Development Index (GHDI) which is running concurrently with the development of this indicator set. The results of this review will provide information to the regional authorities and local authorities on socio-economic issues associated with settlements which will supplement the information already available at the sub-regional level.

Based on the extensive consultation process carried out in collaboration with the DECLG and the NSC, it is considered that the indicators outlined under each of the three themes represent a robust base from which regional development trends can be measured, weaknesses identified and policy responses developed.

Figure 2 depicts the timeline for the indicator development process which has three main components:

- Preparation of draft indicator set (**Complete**)
- Test run to proof indicator set and define targets, outputs, analysis and presentation (for completion Q1 2013) (**Complete**)
- Baseline for RPG mid-term review (for completion Q2/3 2013) (**To be completed**)

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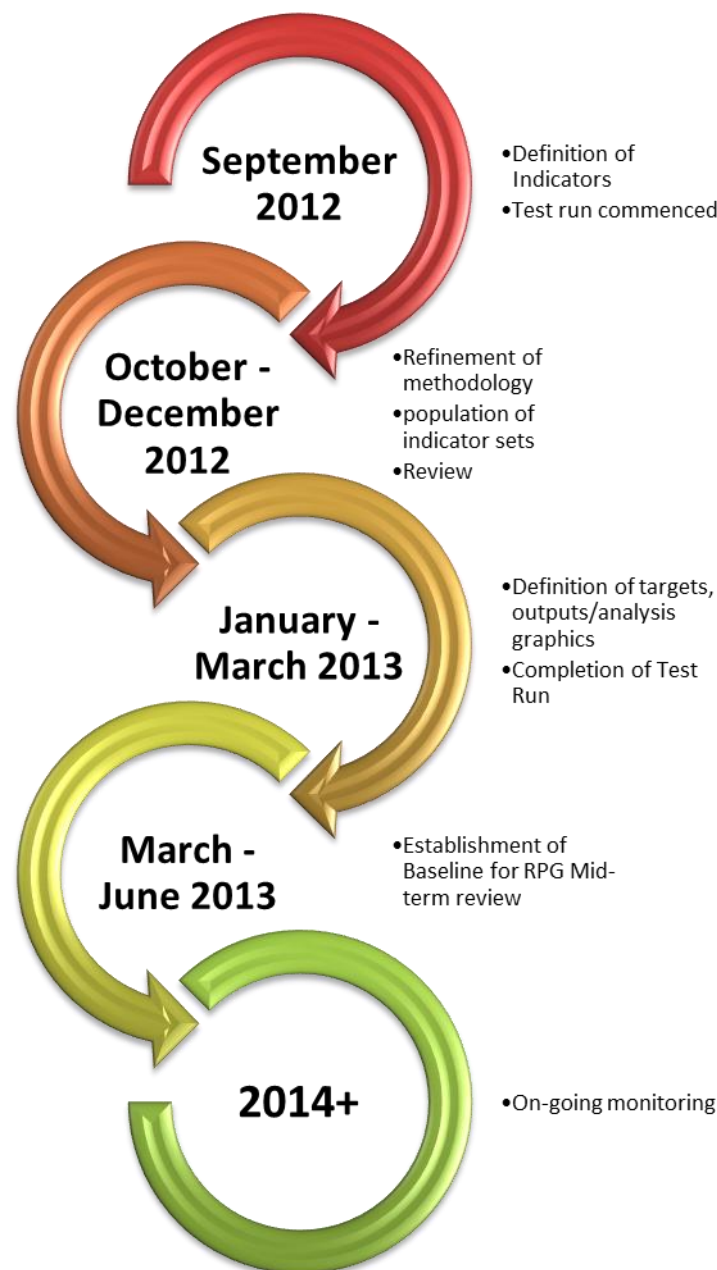
<sup>4</sup> Please note that some indicators have a number of components which in total represent a figure of 29.

<sup>5</sup> E.g. Gateway Development Index – currently under review, MyPlan spatial datasets, indicator development in the KITCASP EU project, work carried out by the CSO and AIRO and use of expertise in State Bodies such as the EPA, etc.

Following presentation of this document to the National Steering Committee, it is proposed to complete the gathering of baseline data for the regional indicator set and mid-term review of the RPGs in 2013/2014.

This exercise will also form the basis for the on-going collection of datasets that are comparable from one monitoring period to the next to ascertain medium to longer term trends in regional development.

**Figure 2: Indicative Process Timeline**





## APPENDIX 1: OTHER INDICATORS CONSIDERED

The following indicators were considered during various iterations of the regional indicators development process, but have been removed. The reasons for their removal are summarised below.

It must be noted that some are indeed useful but may have been removed in an overall aim to ensure the number of regional indicators was kept to a minimum, were focussed on 'key' indicators to address the aims and objectives, were applicable across the regions, had sufficient data availability and were easily accessed.

Indicators Considered	Reason for Removal
<b>Economic Prosperity</b>	
<b>Population (total and by gender) aged 25-64 with tertiary education</b>	This indicator covered a large number of cohorts, but could not be specifically related to targets at national or EU level. The indicator was replaced with one which targets in 30-34 cohort in line with the National Reform Programme.
<b>Employment rate</b> <b>-Unemployment rate</b> <b>-Employment rate by sector</b>	Preferred indicator was that which looks at the employment rate of population aged between 20-64 as it relates directly to the National Reform Programme targets and can be mapped at county and regional level.
<b>Unemployment rate of population aged 20-64</b>	Information on the two indicators proposed is available at a regional level and replaces this particular one.
<b>GVA per capita</b>	
<b>Foreign Direct Investment</b>	This indicator was considered too general and was replaced with those in 4, 5a and 5b which provide more detailed information about investment at regional level
<b>% Population both living and working in Gateways, Hubs and Tier 1 settlements</b>	The first indicator is useful and has been moved to 'People and Places'.
<b>Population potential within 30min travel time of Gateways</b>	These indicators were not included in final draft as they were not considered useful, in that distance alone, to a service or settlement is not sufficient to provide meaningful information. Work is continuing with NTA to establish and define appropriate indicators, which consider the cost function of travel.
<b>Population potential within 15min travel time of Hub/Tier 1 settlements</b>	
<b>Expenditure on Research and Development (R&amp;D) by Business and Higher Level Institutions per region</b>	This type of information is sensitive and can create confidentiality issues for some businesses.
<b>Population with accessibility to High-speed Broadband (1 megabit per second up and down)</b>	Information on broadband coverage and speeds is not disaggregated to any degree below the national level, apart from very basic information. The indicators provided in 6a – 6c provide the most accurate and relevant have information currently available to populate at the regional and county level.

Indicators Considered	Reason for Removal
<b>People and Place</b>	
<b>Population Density</b>	<p>This indicator was initially considered as an appropriate measurement of the application of RPG policy in the achievement of compact and sustainable development patterns. In populating this indicator it became apparent that, applied on a strategic basis, densities are less meaningful, particularly when compared across regions. (For example the physical size of a region has a significant impact on population density at this level). It was concluded that this indicator worked beset at a sub-county level, thereby making it inappropriate for inclusion as part of a regionally focussed indicator set.</p>
<b>Accessibility potential to Primary and Secondary schools, Accessibility to hospital</b>	<p>These accessibility indicators were initially included in the People and Place Section to illustrate regional development patterns in the context of sustainable travel. Investigation of the datasets that this indicator produced illustrated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly dispersed local nature of primary schools</li> <li>• Primarily urban distribution of secondary schools</li> <li>• Definition of Hospitals problematic (general, A&amp;E, specialist etc.)</li> </ul> <p>In each case it was considered that the relationship to the objectives of the RPGs was unclear and further investigation of these indicators unwarranted in this section, particularly when similar more regionally relevant travel indicators were developed under the economic prosperity section. It is considered the Pobal Deprivation Index (available at <a href="https://www.pobal.ie/Pages/Home.aspx">https://www.pobal.ie/Pages/Home.aspx</a>) which includes a GIS element could be explored as an alternative resource, however updating of information tends to be aligned to census periods.</p>
<b>Travel to time to motorway interchanges, Airport, rail stations and bus stops</b>	<p>Following detailed consideration of the dataset that would be generated by these indicators, and the level of definition that would be required, e.g. national, local, regional bus stop - its relevance to sustainable development patterns was unclear in its current form. It was determined that more appropriate travel related information would be generated by the indicators proposed in the economic prosperity section.</p>

Indicators Considered	Reason for Removal
<b>Environment and Infrastructure</b>	
<b>Unaccounted for Water</b>	Considered that WFD 'drinking water quality' sufficient alternative for regional indicators.
<b>Greenhouse gas emissions (incl. Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> and Kyoto Protocol limit)</b>	Not available at a regional level (though will be discussed in relation to energy consumption).
<b>Coastal erosion infrastructure expenditure by region</b>	Total energy consumption and production by region (climate change indicator) considered sufficient alternative for regional indicators.
<b>Building Energy Rating</b>	Currently applies to a proportion of the national housing stock.
<b>Air Quality at Gateway/Hub level</b>	EPA monitoring 'zones' are not consistent with RA areas.
<b>Municipal (household) waste generated</b>	Quality and availability of this regional data varies.
<b>Municipal (household) waste recovery rate</b>	Quality and availability of this regional data varies.
<b>Remaining life expectancy and location of landfills by waste region</b>	Considered that the 'source' element of waste is more appropriate.
<b>Extent of Electric Infrastructure/ No. of electric cars operating in Ireland</b>	Total energy consumption and production by region (climate change indicator) is considered to be sufficient.
<b>WFD Register of Protected Areas (RPAs) (water dependent SACs, SPAs, etc.)</b>	No specific monitoring of RPA water-dependent habitats, only overall water quality under the RBMPs.
<b>Levels of afforestation</b>	Not relevant to all regions.
<b>Visitor numbers to heritage sites</b>	Not linked with aims and objectives of this theme.
<b>Status of the Gaeltachts (population, employment)</b>	More general (non-specific) indicators in the 'People and Place' theme considered more appropriate.
<b>No. of SFRAs by regional authority</b>	Usefulness of indicator considered to be limited.

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