



Dear Colleague,

ILDN in collaboration with the Crafts Council of Ireland (CCoI) would like to invite you to participate in a jointly convened forum that explores the potential to develop a creative cluster initiative in Ireland. This workshop will be facilitated by Eve-Anne Cullinan of MCO Projects.

This forum is intended to 'test' the idea for the development of Creative Clusters that originated at the Year of Craft Summit hosted by the Crafts Council of Ireland in early 2011.

The Crafts Council of Ireland has a significant number of clients and enterprises based in regional locations throughout Ireland and as Local development companies are responsible for delivering the LEADER Programme in rural communities, both CCoI and ILDN recognise the potential to work together to create the right conditions to support the development of craft and related enterprise clusters within agreed areas or regions.

The purpose of convening the Forum with ILDN members is to:

1. Introduce the Creative Clusters Idea
2. Suggest how such a network could be initiated in Ireland through local development networks in a sustainable way – enabling and building on existing grassroots activity in the community.
3. Suggest how the initial Creative Clusters could be identified and how implementation could be enabled through a process of cultural mapping and brokering collaborative action at local area-based level.
4. Identify the immediate potential opportunity for ILDN and CCoI to collaborate on bringing the Idea to other potential partners through the local development network companies.
5. Suggest a pathway for ILDN to enable the initiative based on the process and implementation model that has worked in other cluster projects at local, regional and international levels.

The forum takes place **on Thursday 1st March at the Tullamore Court Hotel from**

10.30 am – 15.00pm.

We very much welcome your participation in this event. Due to the input of guest, expert speakers from abroad there will be a charge of €100 per participant. Make participant fee payable to the Irish Local Development Network.

To book your places please register on or before Monday 27th of February with reception@ildn.ie.

Yours sincerely,

**Brian Carty
Director**

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**Creative Cluster Forum Speakers,
1st March 2012, Tullamore Court Hotel**



Eve-Anne Cullinan, MCO Projects

Facilitator

Eve Anne Cullinan is a founding Director of MCO Projects www.mco.ie a company specialising in sustainable design and 4D Planning. MCO has worked across public, private and community sectors for over 20 years in Ireland to enable real transformation in area-based development. She has particular experience of working in creative cluster development, arts, culture, creative industries and sustainable communities.



Lia Ghilardi, Noema

Lia is a creative polymath, based in London. She is the founder and director of Noema, a UK-based organization working internationally to deliver place mapping and strategic cultural planning projects. Internationally recognized as a leader in the field of cultural urban development, she has worked for more than twenty years with civic leaders, urban designers, architects and arts organisations to provide creative and integrated solutions to the challenges of place making in contemporary cities.

Recently, Lia joined the Mayor of London's new special advisory group on culture and development. At City University, she leads the Culture and Regeneration module as part of the MA in Culture, Policy and Management.



Nick Wilding, Carnegie Trust

Nick joined Carnegie Trust with fifteen years' experience initiating sustainable community development projects, and teaching Action Research and Human Ecology to Masters students with the Centre for Human Ecology at the University of Strathclyde.

Nick is presently leading the Trust's work on community resilience innovation and the continued development of the Rural Community of Practice (www.fieryspirits.com).



Ian Brannigan, Western Development Commission

Ian is the Acting Chief Executive Officer with the Western Development Commission, an organisation tasked with fostering growth in the western region of Ireland

Recently Ian has led the WDC in developing and implementing several innovative growth programmes including Renewable energy, Creative economy, Regional promotion and Innovation, which has led to the design and commissioning of several novel and practical programmes which seek to significantly grow these sectors.

Ian led the WDC input with partners such as Action Renewables (Northern Ireland), ERI (Scotland), Norsjö Municipality (Sweden); Creative Sligo Partnership and 4CNW European Creative Industries Alliance project, and Northern Periphery Programme.



**Creative Cluster Forum, Thursday, 1st March,
Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly**

9:30	Arrival, registration, networking, tea and coffee
10:00	<u>Eve-Anne Cullinan</u> , Facilitator – purpose and format of the session
10:10	<u>Karen Hennessy</u> , CCol Setting the Strategic Framework for CCol at national level regarding creative clusters
10:20	<u>Brian Carty</u> , Local Development Companies as a key partner in connecting at regional and local level to enable and support creative cluster development
	<u>Lia Ghilardi, Noema:</u>
10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Needs and challenges on the ground across creative sectors○ Potential opportunity for creativity as local economic issue based on stories from other areas and regions○ A new model for clusters based on successes from International perspective
	<u>Ian Brannigan</u> , Western Development Commission:
10:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Evolving work in creative industries○ Creative West and the roll-out into Northern Periphery Programme, 4CNW Research by NUIG, needs and opportunity from the people on the ground
	<u>Nick Wilding</u> , Carnegie Trust
11:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Exploring Community Resilience, ‘linking capital’ creative and other sectors○ A compass for engagement and self-organization,○ Communities of Practice
11:30	Facilitated discussion in groups with speakers/partners moderating
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00	Facilitated discussion in open forum with speakers taking on where to from here to develop the Creative Clusters initiative
15:00	Close