

# From Knowledge Networks to Inter-Regional Innovation Systems in the context of Devolution of Powers to Regions

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## Project aims

The project examines the structure, membership, scope, channels, power relations, geopolitical environments, governance, systemic nature and qualities

(formal and informal institutions), boundedness, shared objectives and coherence of Knowledge Networks of Regions (KNoRs).

These are networks of regional groups of actors from different regions engaged in learning, knowledge exchange and innovation activities that take place among groups representing each region's actors (organisations, local authorities, universities and others).



Understanding the above will help regional (and city) stakeholders when deciding on network membership and maximising its efficiency of being a member.



**Stage I**  
Secondary qualitative data analysis of Transnational Knowledge Networks of Cities (TKNoCs)



**Stage II**  
Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)- members, partners and management team.



**Stage III**  
Studying National Networks of Regions and Cities in Poland and the UK



1

### Main Policy recommendations:

Strict exclusive membership may help sustain shared strategic objectives whereas easing admission conditions may help maintain complementary skills and competence along time as new ones may benefit the networks if new members located outside TKNOCs' geographic boundaries join.

2

Strict membership conditions in terms of adherence to geographic boundaries, shared objectives and industrial scope would prevent high turnover of members, which conversely risks collaborative continuity and institutional structures.

Thus, maintaining this over time can benefit TKNOCs for addressing

strategic aims and objectives and joint missions as well as the need to overcome interregional diversity among members such as political, technological, innovation agenda, cultural, etc



**Stage I**  
Secondary qualitative data analysis of Transnational Knowledge Networks of Cities (TKNoCs)

**Districts of Creativity Network | Global Resilient Cities Network | C40 | International Urban Cooperation – EU | Barcelona/Catalonia | Partnership for Healthy Cities | Mastercard City Possible | ASEAN Smart Cities Network**



**Stage II**  
Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)– members, partners and management team.

NILGA has a Quadric Helix = academic institutions, private and public sectors and regional governments representing society, science, industry, and businesses, whose interactions are related to knowledge exploration in mainly public services and infrastructure such as innovation and technology.

These are facilitated mainly but not exclusively in channels such as best practice awards, meetings, and staff training. Apart from strong engagement among members and other partners and organisation in Northern Ireland in knowledge exchange and learning, it also engage in learning activities with some European regions through EU projects.

### Main Policy recommendations:

1

Identification and raising awareness of informal practices and norms e.g. stimulating new ways of joint-up thinking, through informal contacts between individuals regardless of their location and/or organisational affiliation.

2

Improving linkages between private, public and third sectors from different regions and fourth, NILGA should invest and engage in facilitating knowledge exchange related to commercially driven innovations with the private sector, that drive spillover to a wider range of actors and agents.

3

Accepting new members should be based on considering:

- ✓ ability to adhere to formal (regulations) and informal institutions (habits and unwritten rules).
- ✓ complementing and/or adding skills and knowledge to those of the network should be examined.



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**Stage IIII**  
Studying National Networks of Regions and Cities in Poland and the UK



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