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CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION & VOLUNTEERISM: A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

A Comparative Case Study of Limerick City & North
Tipperary

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≈ Abstract ≈

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Civil Society Participation & Volunteerism:
A Geographical Analysis.
A Comparative Case Study of Limerick City & North
Tipperary

Active citizenship is expressed through participation in civil society and voluntary activity. Civil society is the space that functions outside the remit of the public sector and the private sector, but can work in partnership with them, through such avenues as the delivery of social services and the social economy. Several factors influence the level of participation, and how this participation is spatially distributed, such as levels of social capital, trust, and voter participation. Indicators of representative and participative democracy were investigated in order to ascertain if any statistical relationships existed between both strands of democracy, and indicators of spatial association were explored to identify the spatial distribution of these relationships. Various geographic levels were used in the investigation, from the macro of the EU, to the meso of Ireland, to the case study locations of Limerick City and North Tipperary, down to the local level of the community of Inch, North Tipperary. The findings show that significant statistical relationships exist between the indicators of representative and participative democracy, and what factors influence their spatial variability. The level of decentralisation and subsidiarity of decision-making in a State is a key factor in the spatial distribution of active citizenship, yet in the Irish case communities have tended to adopt grassroots movements in order to interact with this centralised hierarchy.

≈ Declaration ≈

College: Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick

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Degree: Master of Arts by Research and Thesis

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Declaration: I submit this thesis for review and defence in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick.

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own original research and that it does not contain the work of any other individual. All sources that have been consulted have been identified and acknowledged in the appropriate way.

Signature of Candidate: _____

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Signature of Supervisor: _____

Dr Brendan O’Keeffe

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≈ List of Abbreviations ≈

- ADM** Area Development Management
- CAVA** The North Tipperary Community and Voluntary Association
- CDB** County/City Development Board
- CDC** Community Development Cooperatives (Comharchumain)
- CEB** County Enterprise Boards
- CIRIEC** Centre International de Recherches et d'Information sur l'Economie Publique, Sociale et Coopérative
- CLÁR** Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais
- CoE** Council of Europe
- CPA** Combat Poverty Agency
- CPG** Corporate Policy Group
- CSO** Central Statistics Office
- CWC** Community Workers' Co-operative
- DCRGA** Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
- DECLG** Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
- DED** District Electoral Division
- DEHLG** Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- DFA** Department of Foreign Affairs
- DIY** Do It Yourself
- DSCFA** Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs
- EA** Enumerator Area
- EBS** Eurobarometer Survey
- EC** European Community
- ED** Electoral Division
- EESC** European Economic and Social Committee

EU European Union

EVA2011 European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship 2011

GAA Gaelic Athletic Association

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

HP Index The Pobal Haase-Pratschke Deprivation Index

HSE Health Service Executive

IAVE International Associations for Volunteer Effort

IRFU Irish Rugby Football Union

ITAC Irish Taskforce on Active Citizenship

IYV International Year of the Volunteers (2001)

IYV+10 International Year of the Volunteers (2011)

LA Local Authority

LDSIP Local Development and Social Inclusion Partnership

LEA Local Electoral Area

LEADER Liason Entre Actions pour le Development d'Economie Rurale

LGBT Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender

NAO National Audit Office

NGO Non-Governmental Organisation

NICVA Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

PAUL People Action Against Unemployment Limited

QNHS Quarterly National Household Survey

RAPID Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development

SPC Strategic Policy Committee

TSO Third Sector Organisation

UK United Kingdom of great Britain & Northern Ireland

UN United Nations

UNCED United Nations Conference on Environment and
Development

UNV United Nations Volunteers

US United States

WARM Wellbeing and Resilience Measure

WHO World Health Organisation

≈ Prologue ≈

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main...

...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind...

John Donne

XVII. MEDITATION

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Community and voluntary activity has been seen by researchers and commentators as an important cog in the Irish way of life over the last century. Such activity has both contributed to and arisen from the economic, political, religious, and social realms in both urban and rural areas in Ireland and quantitative research in this area is sparse.

The tradition of voluntary action is long established, widely shared, and deeply embedded in social norms. It spans from the formally organized charity of religious orders and philanthropically-oriented citizens to the meitheal or self-help activities of individuals and community groupings.

(Donnelly-Cox et al., 2001:196)

Voluntary groups/initiatives vary significantly and their varying scale and other features can be tied to the mechanisms of collective citizen action and interfaces with institutions of governance. The importance of these groups/initiatives and voluntary work is increasingly coming into the Irish public arena with the 2006 Irish Census containing a new question on voluntary activities.

The results of this question showed that over 553,000 people, representing 16.4% of the population, aged 15 and over, were involved in voluntary activity in Ireland. The area with the highest percentage of people partaking in voluntary activities is North Tipperary (12,986 – 19.2%) with their neighbours in Limerick City (7,243 – 13.1%) performing poorest in the Census of Population.

The aim of this research project is to profile the levels and changes in the spatial patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism and to identify the factors that influence these in Ireland, with a focus on selected Irish micro locations (Limerick City and North Tipperary).

1.2 Objective of Thesis

This research project has several objectives to achieve the aim of profiling the levels and changes, and the identification of the factors that influence the spatial patterns of civil society participation and voluntary activity participation at various geographic levels, from the macro level of the European Union Member State, the meso level of Ireland, down to the micro level of Limerick City and North Tipperary.

In order to fulfil this aim the following research questions will need to be addressed:

- How have the concepts of civil society participation and volunteerism developed globally?
- How can these concepts be characterised in the landscape of Ireland?
- What are the factors and indicators that influence the variance of civil society participation and volunteerism?
- What are the spatial patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism at different geographic levels?

These questions will be realised through an investigation of the literature, geographical analyses of data pertaining to the factors that influence civil society participation, and fieldwork in the selected case study locations of Limerick City and North Tipperary.

1.3 Research Importance

The research of civil society participation and voluntary activity has socio-political importance.

1.3.1 Social Importance:

“It is to voluntary organisations and foundations to which we owe the origins of many of the services such as education, health and social services which we take for granted today.”

(European Commission, 1997:4)

Volunteers are an integral part of the community and voluntary sector in Ireland, and this sector has played a pivotal role in the delivery of social welfare in Ireland. The Irish welfare system is heavily reliant on volunteers as they are essential to the delivery of a range of essential services, and the centrality of their role has been acknowledged by the White Paper on a Framework for Supporting Voluntary Activity and for Developing the Relationship between the State and the Community and Voluntary sector (2000:17). This importance is furthered by the European Union (EU) in the Treaty of Maastricht (1992) declaration 23, stating the importance of ‘charitable associations and foundations as institutions responsible for welfare establishments and services’ (Acheson et al., 2003: 12).

1.3.2 Political Importance:

“The voluntary sector as the so-called third sector is vital to democracy because it can express the needs of different citizens and provide a critical voice. Such a critique of the State is essential to the workings and survival of democracy and helps prevent stagnation in the political and social systems.”

(National Committee on Volunteering, 2002:13)

Voluntary activity has very important political connotations, as such activity can nurture a sense of cohesion and commonality among citizens and through maintaining this social stability the ‘democratic deficit’ and the growth of citizen separation from the State is counteracted (European Commission, 1997; National Committee on Volunteering, 2002). Therefore participation in civil society and voluntary activity provides the ‘essential underpinnings of our democracy’ (European Commission, 1997:5).

1.4 Research Method

The objectives for this research thesis will be met through a combined methodology. The methodology is split into two different

methodological strands, desk based research and analyses, and fieldwork.

The desk based research involves:

- Comparative statistical analysis of indicators of participative democracy and representative democracy, and investigations of possible associations with other socio-economic variables.
- Mapping of civil society and institutional interfaces in the Irish landscape of the community and voluntary sector.
- Spatial analysis of the 2006 Irish Census data set on volunteerism in Ireland.
- Mapping of civil society organisations and structures in the selected case study locations.

The fieldwork involves:

- Administration of questionnaire to all community and voluntary groups found within the case study location, in order to develop a profile of the infrastructure found within the case study location.
- Focus group with community leaders (community and voluntary group committee members) to explore the determinants of volunteerism within the case study location.
- Administration of questionnaire to sample population of volunteers in case study research to explore the determinants of participative and representative democracy.

1.5 Structure of Thesis

This thesis has been divided into different chapters, each chapter deals with the objectives of the research and the correlating methodological method associated with achieving the different research objectives.

Chapter 2 entitled ‘Literature Review’ investigates previous literature on civil society participation and volunteerism and the factors associated with this participation are identified. The EU and Irish Government policies and institutions of governance that affect community and voluntary sector participation are also investigated and from this civil society and institutional interfaces in the Irish landscape of the community and voluntary sector has been mapped out in the literature review.

Chapter 3 entitled ‘Methodology’ discusses the different methodologies used in this research project to gain quantitative and qualitative data from the secondary and primary sources. The techniques used for the collection and analyses of the data will be explained.

Chapter 4 entitled ‘Representative and Participative Democracy in the EU’ presents the results gained from the collection, analysis and mapping of the data from secondary data sources pertaining to the factors that influence civil society participation and volunteerism in the EU27 Member States.

Chapter 5 entitled ‘Representative & Participative Democracy in the Ireland’ presents the results gained from the collection, analysis and mapping of the data from secondary data sources pertaining to the factors that influence civil society participation and volunteerism in Ireland.

Chapter 6 entitled ‘The Civil Society Landscape of Limerick City’ discusses the landscape of the community and voluntary sector present in Limerick City and presents the results gained from the collection, analysis and mapping of the data from secondary and primary data sources pertaining to the factors that influence civil society participation and volunteerism in Limerick City.

Chapter 7 entitled ‘The Civil Society Landscape of North Tipperary and the Community of Inch’ discusses the landscape of the community and voluntary sector present in North Tipperary and presents the results gained from the collection, analysis and mapping of the data from secondary and primary data sources pertaining to the factors that influence civil society participation and volunteerism in North Tipperary, with particular attention given to the selected case study community of Inch.

Chapter 8 entitled ‘Civil Society, Volunteerism & Space’ will discuss the research within the context of the literature, providing a link between the research results and conclusions arising out of the research based on the patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism and the factors that influence these at the various geographic levels.

Chapter 9 entitled ‘Conclusion’ puts forward a summary of the main findings of this research project, and a conclusion is then drawn up on the results of the research with recommendations for future research prospects in the research area investigated and its contribution to the field of civil society and voluntary activity participation.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly decided that volunteerism has such a key role in society that 2001 was declared the International Year of the Volunteers (IYV). The aims of this were to increase the acknowledgment, assistance, networking, and promotion of volunteering through highlighting the accomplishments of the millions of those who volunteer worldwide and devote some of their time to helping others, and to encourage more people internationally to engage in voluntary activity (United Nations Volunteers [UNV], 1999).

IYV was deemed a success as the role and contribution of voluntary action received recognition internationally (UN General Assembly, 2002) and in order to build on this success 2011, the 10th year anniversary of IYV, was designated IYV+10. It is hoped that by doing this the contributions and donations of volunteers to society for peace and development can be recognised and further promoted along with providing an enhanced understanding of how volunteerism can change the nature and pace of development beyond those that have been set by the Millennium Development Goals. The UN felt that the year offered a platform for continued promotion and policy development and facilitated cooperation with, and among volunteers and organisations in the public, private and civil society/third sectors (UNV, 2010).

2011 was also designated as the European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship (EVA2011) by The European Council. The aims of this European Year were to encourage and support the efforts of the European Community, the governments of Member States, local and regional authorities to create suitable conditions for those within civil society contributing to volunteering in the European

Union (EU) and to increase the prominence of voluntary activities within the EU (CoE, 2009).

Defining civil society and volunteerism can often be difficult due to their varying socio-cultural contexts globally. When such concepts are so intrinsically connected to one's culture and class their definition is based on the personal and political perspective. However, over the years these concepts have evolved through research and cultural change. Many disciplines have taken on these concepts and grappled to find a definition that suits best, but all these definitions have common features:

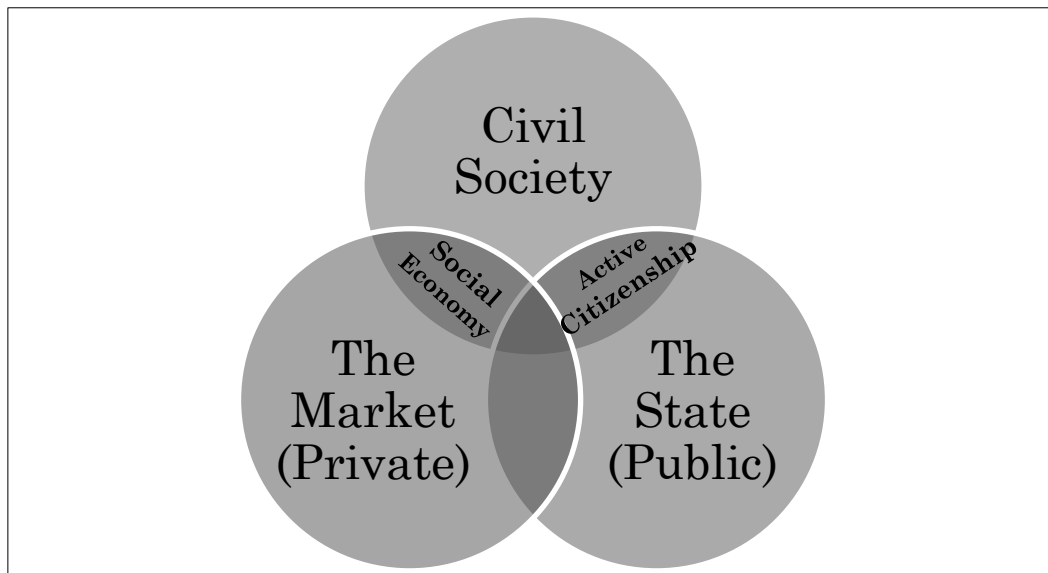
- association with the third sector;
- identification with the social economy;
- relation to and connection with the other economic sectors (public and private spheres), yet independent and autonomous;
- a space for voluntary and not-for-profit organisations;
- a common/collective link/goal/value based motivation among individuals;
- active citizenship and non-compulsory/voluntary participation;
- and, non-financial remuneration.

2.2 Civil Society

Originally civil society was associated with the third or non-profit sector; thus it can have an economic dimension, whereby voluntary associations tend to assume a role in economic as well as in social development, hence volunteerism has become identified with the social economy (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2003). Civil society has a distinctive set of economic interactions that are related to and connected with the other economic sectors, namely the private and public spheres (they are separate from, and independent of each other, though overlapping in the middle, such as in a Venn diagram [**Figure 2.2-1**]) the State (the public sphere) and the market (the private sphere). Therefore, the term civil society can

refer to the sector where voluntary and not-for-profit organisations can be found outside the remit of the State/government and the market, but can work in conjunction with them. The State and civil society are linked together through the political society (Edwards, 2004). Wedel (1994) believed that a civil society exists when individuals and communities have the freedom to form associations that function independently and outside the remit of the market and the State but these organisations can also mediate between citizens and the State.

Figure 2.2-1: Venn diagram showing the 3 social sectors and sets of economic relations



Civil society or the third sector is, by its very nature, unsuitable for singular definitions (Osborne, 2008; Corry, 2010) due to it being an alternative sector separate from, but also balancing the State and the market and its interactions with them (Etzioni, 1973; Corry, 2010). Wagner (2002:51) stated that civil society is ‘the organisational universe that emerges in many societies between government and the market’ and as a result civil society can be understood to be a “sphere of intermediate associations that are separate from the household and the State” (Connolly 2007:4). Cohen and Arato (1992:ix) defined civil society as ‘a sphere of social interaction between economy and State,

composed above all of the intimate sphere (especially the family), the sphere of associations (especially voluntary associations), social movements and forms of public communications... institutionalised and generalised through laws'. They go on further to say that 'institutions that must be co-ordinated communicately appear under the heading of civil society'. From this liberal tradition civil society is used to refer to individuals, organisations, networks and relationships that are not organised by the State, which have "ensured pluralism in a political system, exercised restraint on governments, and through the advancement of group interests, generated policy ideas, and also assisted in the implementation of policy" (Connolly 2007:4; Edwards, 2004). Characteristics of civil society is that it is organised, private (independent from State institutions and power structures), autonomous, non-compulsory/voluntary participation, value-based motivation, and in the US, non-profit distributing (Salamon & Anheier, 1997:9; Corry, 2010; Taylor, 2010; Zimmer, 2010).

The term civil society is sometimes used by governments to distinguish organisations that work within civil society from organisations and institutions that operate within the other two sectors of the economy: the public sector (the government) and the private sector (private businesses), these organisations can also be known as third sector organisations (TSOs) (National Audit Office [NAO], 2009; Corry, 2010). Some TSOs partake in social economy and social enterprise and these economic structures have been highlighted as alternative modes of production and exist in the space between the third sector and the private sector of the market [**Figure 2.2-1**].

The practices of charity, altruism and mutualism exist in the space/interfaces between the government and the third sector [**Figure 2.2-1**]. These virtues point towards the existence of an active citizenship which comes in the form of an obligation towards others

(Powell and Guerin, 1997). For some commentators citizen participation is an absolute term for citizen power (Arnstein, 1969) and an active citizen is a person who actively participates in civil society and voluntary activity is an expression of civil society participation.

2.3 Irish Civil Society

The Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) gives a broad definition of the third sector or civil society through an amalgamation of work by different research bodies which proposes that the voluntary sector can be understood to comprise of bodies that have self-governing structures leading them to autonomy; are independent (excluding State agencies); are non-profit organisations that benefit from the philanthropy of others; are for the benefit of the wider public (excluding those organisations that exist solely for their own members); non-sacramental (but including activities of public benefit performed by religious organisations, for example in the area of social and health services) (NICVA, 2002; Acheson et al., 2004).

While reviewing the sector in Ireland, Faughnan (1990) noted the diversity of community and voluntary organisations challenged a precise description and lacked clear boundaries. In its 2000 White Paper the Government concluded that “a pragmatic approach to the issue of the definition of the sector is necessary, given the range of Departments and agencies that engage in relationships with a wide range of Community and Voluntary organisations at different levels” (Irish Government, 2000: 52). There is also no complete definitive database of volunteer organisations in Ireland. The majority of organisations are small and sometimes fleeting, however through their research the Centre for Nonprofit Management identified at least 24,000 non-profit organisations operating in Ireland (Donoghue et al., 2006; Velthuis, 2010).

The history of the relationship between the community and voluntary sector and the Irish State has been changing over the years due to the changes being made in the legislations and policies that govern this sector. Most of the policies had referred to funding regulations (mainly related to health services) for non-profit organisations until the introduction of the Government White Paper on Supporting the Community and Voluntary Sector in 2000. Up until the publication of this paper the main component of the sectors relationship with the state was based on service provision.

Civil society's relationship to the State is limited by it being "the realm of organised social life that is voluntary, self-generating, (largely) self-supporting, autonomous from the State, and bound by a legal order or set of shared rules" (Diamond 1994: 5; Irish Government, 2000). Four themes have emerged about how the State and civil society have interacted over the past two decades in Ireland: there exists a controlling relationship; increasingly more disciplinary funding regimes; the State wants service provision model for the community and voluntary sector¹; and the presence of a blinkered and confused ideology (Kirby & Murphy, 2009; Gaynor, 2009).

The 2000 Government White Paper commented on the role of an active voluntary sector within the Irish State as contributing to a democratic, inclusive society, providing opportunities for the development of decentralised and participative structures and the promotion of an environment in which the quality of life can be enhanced for all citizens (9). A trend can be observed in which the State can be seen moving

¹ Although a large proportion of services are delivered through non-profit organisations, the legal obligation to provide those services rests with the State, and this State/non-profit relationship has grown due to different legislations within the various Health Acts, stating that services provided by non-profit organisation are to be similar to those provided for by the State, however, it has emerged that such services provided for by the community and voluntary sector are not similar or ancillary showing the States laissez-faire attitude towards service provision.

away from the provision of grant support to community and voluntary organisations and towards the use of service level agreements in which the organisations deliver certain social services on a contractual basis on behalf of the State (Velthuis, 2010). The core principles shaping the relationship between the State and the community and voluntary sector, according to the 2000 White Paper, are the recognition of: the non-profit sector as an essential element of a vibrant civil society; the need to refer to non-profit service providers and other groups in receipt of State funding about service design and delivery; the variety and independence of the sector; the role of the sector in paying a part in policy and relevant legislation development; and the legal responsibility that rests with the State for the delivery of services. The Department of Health and Children alongside the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs were given the responsibility for the White Paper's Implementation and Advisory Group to ensure that the recommendations within the White Paper were implemented (Irish Government, 2005). The Department for Health and Children has acknowledged that there have been several issues in the enactment of the White Paper (ibid.).

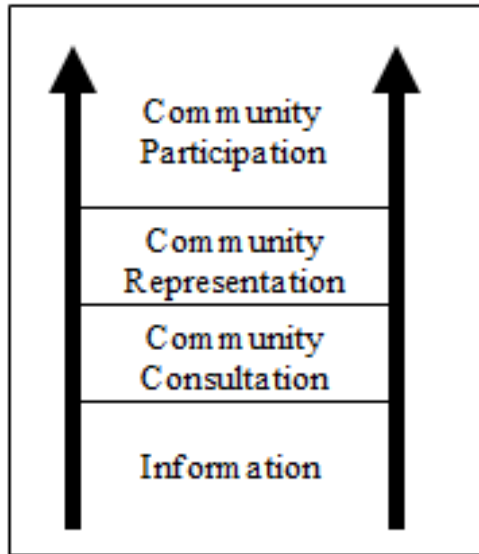
Civil society, due to its multifaceted nature is complex to define owing to many differing viewpoints on the concept of civil society, however there are some common links or traits that can be seen among these viewpoints, and some key features have been identified in most literature. These links include the institutions, organisations, and individuals that are to be found among the family/household (intimate), the state (public) and the market (private) [or as Tovey and Share stated, 'informal associations, trust and the institutions of public life are the stuff of civil society', 2000], in which people participate voluntarily to advance common interests, some key elements in which people can participate in are voluntary activity, community action and

active citizenship. While civil society is associated with third sector, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations can work in partnership with the public and private sphere. These partnerships occur in the space between the market and civil society (resulting in social economy) and between the State and civil society (resulting in active citizenship). Social economy spans economic activity in the third sector and can include social enterprises as there is employment and active trading (Vidal, 2010). Active citizenship is participation of the citizen into the affairs of the State through political means in order to bring about a benefit to their community (thus leading to community action). Therefore volunteerism is an expression of civil society through citizens actively participating in civil society. Civil society is a fluid concept that is emerging and is open to interpretation and applications; however, a working definition is needed for the development of a methodological framework for this research project: civil society is collective action that works outside the remit of the state and the market but works in partnership with them.

2.4 Civil Society Participation

Active citizenship and citizen participation was seen by Arnstein (1969) as a redistribution of power especially to ‘have not citizens’, those who were lower in the socio-economic class structure and therefore not included in economic and political processes. This also ties in with the conclusion of the EU Comité des Sages (1996) that ‘citizenship is not merely a collection of rights: it is also a way of living, of recognising one’s obligations to others, of participating in society, through a multiplicity of relationships with its members’ (cited in Powell and Guerin, 1997). Civil society organisations are considered as avenues for active civic participation (Zimmer, 2010).

Figure 2.4-1: Ladder of Participation (CWC, 1997)



The Ladder of Citizen Participation as presented by the Community Worker's Co-Operative (CWC) (**Figure 2.4-1**), based off Arnstein's ladder of participation, shows the differences between meaningful participation and tokenism (when citizens are consulted and their advice is heard but they lack the power to insure that their views will be taken on board by the decision makers). The bottom rung of this participative ladder shows the most basic level of interaction with communities. Information provision has a low level of citizen participation and is a unilateral process, where those in charge, such as a government agency, inform the citizens of their actions, intentions or policies. The second rung is community consultation which involves seeking feedback from a community on an action or proposal where those in charge keep their position of power to either accept or reject the views of the citizens and in these cases peripheral groups are less likely to participate. Community representation, the third rung, gives local communities a more formal structure of input in decision making as they have membership of community groups such as working groups or management committees who participate on their behalf with those in charge, however this rung is limited to the

abilities of the organisation of which they are members. Community participation is the most desirable level of citizen engagement as it is the top rung of participation and gives citizens the most power. Through community participation all parties in the decision process are equal and throughout the development process communities are continuously engaged.

A person is not solely involved in one participation process (or one participation ladder) at a time, for example a person can be involved in participation at home, in their local community, at work, nationally (with the Irish State) and supranationally (with Europe). The persons level in the participation process (of the ladder) will vary depending on the different geographic levels, these vary from being high up on the ladder of participation at home to being further down the ladder in the supranational structure of the EU.

Civic participation is needed for representative democracy to work, and vice-versa; this is because the structure of representative democracy involves a government of elected representatives for the people, elected by the people, made up of the people. In Ireland the statutory role of local government is for the democratic representation of local communities and promoting the interests of such communities while also exercising statutory powers at local level for such communities (DECLG, 2011). Local authorities are the main sub-national, democratically-based bodies, and in Ireland there is a history of local authority involvement in community initiatives and service provision at the local level, such as the provision of social housing, leisure, recreation, arts and amenity facilities and services, as well as estate management, urban and village renewal, funding for tidy towns initiatives and the operation of community employment schemes (ibid.).

One path that can lead to civic participation is volunteerism. The UN states that volunteering is an “important component of effective governance and successful social and economic development” (UNV, 2005). Volunteer work is firstly, productive work that requires human capital, secondly, collective behaviour that requires social capital, and finally, ethically guided work that requires cultural capital (Wilson & Musick, 1997).

2.5 Volunteerism

As a vibrant civil society implies an active citizenship; there is an association between levels of volunteerism and the expressions and forms of civil society. Volunteering has been defined by sociologists as an activity in which people participate during their free time in order to bring about a benefit to another person, group or cause, however this does not state that volunteers in turn cannot benefit from their time spent volunteering (Wilson, 2000). Volunteerism is associated with the use or contribution of volunteer labour, with a special focus on community services. According to the UN, volunteerism is an important element for effective governance and successful social and economic development (UNV, 2005) and volunteerism, when focused appropriately, is a powerful factor in the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (UN Secretary General, 2005).

There are many factors associated with volunteerism and these can be seen and expressed in all societies. But before these factors can be examined the framework that they work within, volunteerism, needs to be understood. There are many different definitions of what volunteerism is, but this shows how diverse and how socio-cultural this concept is and how embedded it is into societies.

Volunteerism as defined in the Oxford dictionary is the use or involvement of volunteer labour, especially in community services.

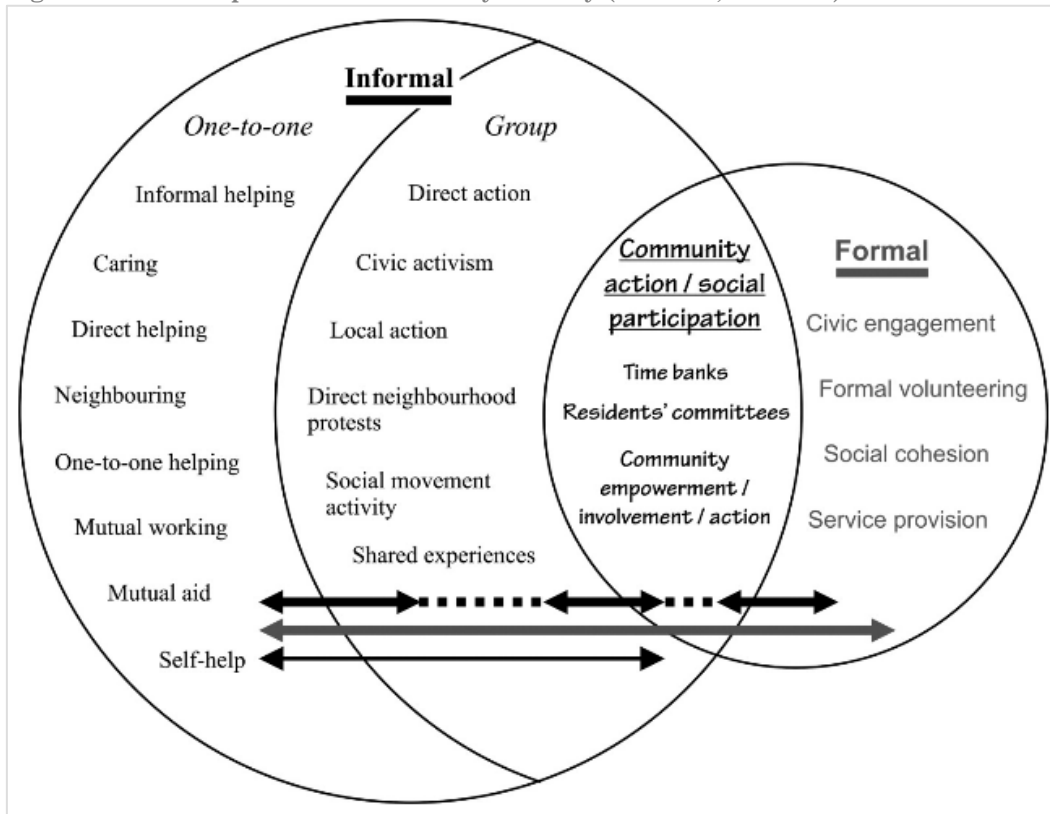
Following on from this concept, former Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern stated in the forward of the 2000 White Paper on Voluntary Activity that:

“Voluntary activity forms the very core of all vibrant and inclusive societies. It involves an incredible diversity of types of activity, ranging from the very informal to the highly structured. It can mean anything from occasionally helping out in a local sports club to participation in major national organisations.”

Therefore, volunteerism can be seen as the theory, act, or practice of being a volunteer or of using volunteers in community service work (enVision, 2010) and according to the UN, volunteerism is an important element for effective governance and successful social and economic development (UNV, 2005) and when properly channelled, it is a powerful force for the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (UN Sectary General, 2005).

The Irish Government White Paper on Voluntary Activity (2000:37) defines volunteering as “The commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society, local communities, and individuals outside the immediate family, the environment and other causes. Voluntary activities are undertaken of a person’s own free will, without payment (except for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses).” This definition takes into account the spectrum of volunteering and that volunteering can be expressed either formally or informally as can be seen in **Figure 2.5-1**. Formal volunteering refers to activities structured by an organisation, be they major organisations such as national voluntary organisations, with some paid staff or small community groups that consist entirely of volunteers. Informal volunteering, which can rely heavily on social capital, refers to a wide range of activities of mutual help and co-operation between individuals within communities.

Figure 2.5-1: The spectrum of voluntary activity (Woolvin, 2010:266)



As can be seen in **Figure 2.5-1** above there is a spectrum of voluntary activity. The over-arching classification of voluntary activities is that they can be either informal or formal. The informal voluntary activity is divided into three different sections; the first is one-to-one volunteering which incorporates caring, helping, ‘neighbouring’, mutual work and aid, and self-help, all these activities occurring mainly in intimate relations and within the family unit; the second is group volunteering, this is where you can find direct action, civic activism, local action, direct neighbourhood protests, social movement activity and shared experienced, this group volunteering occurs mainly in the community; the third sphere is community action and social participation, involved in this volunteering is time banks, residents’ committees and community empowerment, involvement and action, while this also occurs in the community it can also be considered

formal volunteering. Community is a concept consisting of two elements, these are the relationships between people and the relationships between people and the place in which they are located (Warburton, 1998). As community action and social participation are both informal and informal, there is only one aspect of volunteering that is wholly formal, included under this formal volunteering are civic engagement, formal volunteering, social cohesion and service provision. All these sections of volunteering can work with all the other types of volunteering.

2.6 Factors & Indicators of Participation

Education, income, and functional health have been used to measure human capital (measure of the economic value of a person) and religiosity has been used to measure cultural capital. Cultural capital is seen as the forms of education, skills, knowledge, and advantages that a person has, which give them a higher status in society. Parents often provide their children with cultural capital by providing extra-curricular activities and conveying the attitudes and knowledge needed to succeed in society.

Another form of capital is social capital. According to Putnam (2000) there are different types of social capital; bonding and bridging. Bonding social capital occurs when social connections happen within a person's group or community while bridging social capital occurs when social connections happen across certain divides, such as social connections between different communities of socio-economic classes. Due to this difference an unequal distribution can be found between bonding and bridging. People lower down the socio-economic class structure and deprived areas tend to have more bonding social capital, but little bridging social capital (Woolcook, 1998; Putnam, 2000). Because of this lack of bridging social capital Wilson (1987) believes that poor people are socially isolated since they lack job opportunities

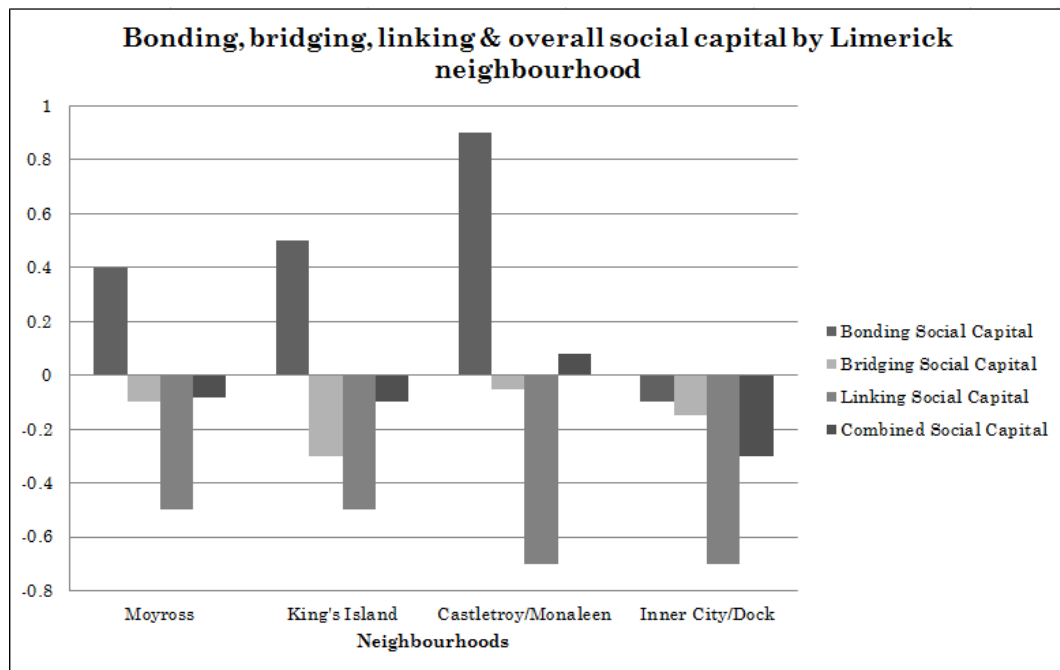
and resources that can be gained from social connections, which would help them to escape their poverty. Also another finding for the lack of bridging social capital in deprived areas is that, according to Putnam, when entire areas are under pressure (social/economic) the people/community pull together and cease bridging social capital hence reducing their social connections with those outside of the area or community as they turn inward no longer trusting those outside the boundaries, and by doing this they become an excluded community losing opportunities (such as job opportunities) elsewhere because of this lack of bridging capital.

Putnam (2000) argues that social capital is formed and maintained through the practice of communication. If there is no interaction within the community the relationships die out. Social capital increases with use and as a result it is created from the innumerable everyday interactions between people. However, Putnam (2000) stresses that there is difficulty in building social capital, especially in disadvantaged areas as they are often characterised by a downward spiral, low levels of trust leading to higher levels of crime, which lead to even lower levels of social capital, especially bridging social capital.

Humphreys, in her research on social capital in Limerick City follows on from Putnam's definition of it being 'features of social organisation, norms and trust that can improve the efficiency of society by facilitating coordinated action' (Putnam et al., 1993:167, Humphreys & Dineen, 2007). The three different types of social capital were investigated; these were bonding social capital, bridging social capital and linking social capital ('norms of respect and networks of trusting relationships between people who are interacting across explicit, formal, or institutionalized power or authority gradients in society' (Szretzer & Woolcock, 2004:33)). In Limerick city the disadvantaged areas studied showed significantly lower levels of bridging and linking

social capital than those areas that were not considered disadvantaged, however, while social capital levels in general were low, bonding social capital was at its highest in the disadvantaged areas (**Figure 2.6-1**) (Humphreys & Dineen, 2007), reiterating the theories put forward by Woolcock (1998) and Putnam (2000).

Figure 2.6-1: Bonding, bridging, linking & overall social capital by Limerick neighbourhood (Humphreys & Dineen, 2007:21)



In contemporary research on social capital the most controversy comes from the link between confidence in the government and civic participation, Brehm and Rahn (1997) showed in their results that a higher confidence in the government projected a higher participation in civil society; however, Brooks and Lewis (2001) suggest that as people lose their confidence in government and its public goods and services provision ability, they will start using private and community sector alternatives, with their results showing that a lower confidence level in the government leads to higher levels of volunteering in the third sector (Brooks, 2002).

Brooks (2002) also theorises that links exist between the voluntary and community sector and government, with changes in civic participation leading to changes in the effectiveness of government, this effectiveness influences the levels of confidence in the government, and this confidence in turn impacts on the amount of civic participation. The links between civic participation and government effectiveness are positive, meaning that voluntary activity should vary positively with the effectiveness of government, which in turn has a direct relationship with the confidence level in the government (ibid.).

With the results from Brehm and Rahns' (1997) research a positive feedback loop is created; with lower government effectiveness driving down the confidence levels in the government, thus reducing civic participation, which in turn further reduces the effectiveness of government, and continuing on with the cycle of knock-on effects (Brooks, 2002). This can also be seen on the national and supranational level, as Tamvaki (2009) states, in her research on voter participation in the 2004 EU elections, that when citizens are satisfied with the nature of democracy in their own country they have confidence in the representative function of their assembly and therefore become dismissive of the effect of the decisions the supranational assembly of the EU Parliament has on their lives and therefore do not participate in voting in EU elections. Equally when citizens have low levels of satisfaction and trust in the domestic democratic performance, they recognise the effect of the decisions of the EU Parliament on their daily lives and will display a higher inclination to vote believing that the political benefits of voting in the supranational arena overcome national driven issues (Tamvaki, 2009). From the results in Brooks and Lewis' (2001) research a negative feedback loop is created, in which lower government effectiveness and lower level of confidence in government will increase civic participation

and this increase will lead to a more effective government. In this negative feedback loop the community and voluntary sector has an improving role on government, therefore by bringing the State sector and the third sector together a self-correcting mechanism is created (Brooks, 2002). From this factors have been identified with these links between trust in the government, confidence in the government, government effectiveness and civic participation (ibid.). At the European level a variance in these factors could be seen using the European Social Model as a contributing geographic factor, as the different European States have been grouped depending on their welfare state into different sub-sections of the European Social Model, leading to a geographic variance government structure.

The factors that are associated with volunteerism show how complex this concept it is and how it functions within societies. Volunteerism and volunteering can be defined as an activity people participate in during the time that they are free in order to help benefit another person, group or cause. In order to do this the person must be actively involved in society and participate within the society, and research shows that there a varying degrees to which one can actively participate in society. Along with this active participation the person's education, income, and health (human capital) and their devotedness or faith (cultural capital) influence their levels of voluntary participation. Another important factor in a person's voluntary participation is their social capital which can be the level of their bonding and social connectedness to the community to which they belong. Therefore the higher their social capital, the more willing they are to voluntary participate in their community. The last factor that can be seen is trust, this spans from the intimate sphere of the family to the local, all the way up to the national of the State or even supranational. The higher the persons level of trust is in their State

and society the more willing they are to participate in their society and with the State. All these factors can be studied to give a clear picture of the presence of volunteerism and indeed civil society in societies.

2.7 Conclusion

In order to spatially analyse the patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism in Ireland, the factors that influence civil society participation and volunteerism must be investigated. These factors derive from the characteristics of civil society which are that it is organised, independent from State institutions, autonomous and is characterised by voluntary participation, value-based motivation, and in the US, non-profit distributing.

Therefore, by taking these characteristics into account the factors that influence civil society participation and volunteerism include active participation or citizen participation, as a vibrant civil society implies an active citizenship, there is an association between levels of volunteerism and the expressions and forms of civil society: social capital, which is the collective benefits from the cooperation between individuals; human capital, which is education, income, and functional health; cultural capital, which is the forms of knowledge, skills, education, and advantages that a person has, which give them a higher status in society; and, levels of trust in institutions of governance. The European Social Model is also another contributing factor to the ever evolving concept of civil society and volunteerism, and can in part demonstrate the presence of the geographic variances seen in civil society and volunteerism shown in the European countries, specifically Ireland and the case study locations of Limerick City and North Tipperary.

Having investigated all these factors of voluntary activity and civil society participation, their links and relationships can be seen and

their presence and importance in Ireland can be further investigated. Therefore, the main aim of this thesis is to undertake a multi-level spatial analysis of the patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism and the factors that influence these. This aim will be achieved through answering the following questions:

- How have the concepts of civil society participation and volunteerism developed globally?
- How can these concepts be characterised in the landscape of Ireland?
- What are the factors and indicators that influence the variance of civil society participation and volunteerism?
- What are the spatial patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism at different geographic levels?

Chapter 3: Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This research seeks to investigate, spatially analyse, and report on the patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism and the factors that influence these in Ireland; with a focus on the case study locations of Limerick City and North Tipperary. In order to fully form an understanding of the patterns and factors of civil society participation and volunteerism, the research requires more than one methodological approach.

The methodological framework used in this research is that of the comparative case study. The specific methodologies used in this research can be divided into different methodological strands involving desk-based research and fieldwork. Each methodological strand has several components in order to address the research questions that have arisen through the literature review, which investigated the conceptual underpinnings of civil society participation and volunteerism internationally, and within the Irish landscape.

Three principal methods were used to gather data for this research. The first approach involved a review of international and Irish literature relating to civil society participation and volunteerism. The second method consisted of the collection of a combination of quantitative data from both primary and secondary sources. This methodological approach yielded tangible evidence of and data on civil society participation, voluntary activity, and social capital patterns in the case study areas. However, while quantitative data allow for the measurement of participation, investigation into the factors underlying civil society participation and volunteerism required complementary qualitative research methods. The main qualitative data collection

method consisted of a focus group, with community leaders², which can give explanatory depth to the factors that influence civil society participation and volunteerism.

3.2 Comparative Case Study Research

As the subtitle of this research suggests, the main methodological framework used is that of the comparative case study. Case studies combine a wide range of research methodologies and Yin defines the case study research method as an ‘empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context; when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident; and in which multiple sources of evidence are used’ (Yin, 1984: 23).

For this research project a comparative case study of two locations was pursued. The case studies chosen were Limerick City and North Tipperary. These case studies were selected on the basis of levels of volunteerism (based on data from the 2006 Census of Population). Among local authority areas (cities and counties), North Tipperary scored highest with 19.2% of its population actively participating in voluntary activity in the run up to the Census (the 4 weeks previous), with Limerick City having the lowest recorded levels of voluntary activity at 13.1%. These case study areas are adjacent to each other and are both located in the Mid-West Region.

The independent variable of the two different cases makes it possible to investigate spatial patterns from the level of the EU, down to the Irish State and onto the micro level of the case studies. Thus helping to answer the research questions through investigating the variables associated with the factors and indicators that influence the variance

² The term ‘community leader’ in this research project will refer to those within a community who hold an officer position within a community or voluntary organisation committee, while the term ‘member’ will refer to those who are in membership of a community or voluntary organisation.

of civil society participation and volunteerism and the spatial patterns that arise as a result at different geographic levels.

3.3 Desk-Based Research

This process began with an investigation into publications and research in the area of civil society and voluntary activity. This investigation resulted in the literature review, which has helped to address the first research question of this project: how have the concepts of civil society participation and volunteerism developed globally? It is important to fully understand the concepts of civil society participation and volunteerism in order to identify potential variables that result in the geographic patterns seen.

Moving on from the global level of civil society participation and volunteerism a closer look into the Irish landscape is necessary, and a more in-depth study is necessary to identify any localised factors that can impact on the pattern of civil society participation and volunteerism within Ireland. This again has been outlined in the literature review and therefore answers the second research question: how can these concepts be characterised in the landscape of Ireland?

Having established a working knowledge of the concepts of civil society participation and volunteerism, and their working relationships within the Irish landscape, factors that influence the geographic variance were identified and outlined within the literature review, thus satisfying in part the third research question: what are the factors and indicators that influence the variance of civil society participation and volunteerism? These factors were then grouped into indicators of participative democracy and representative democracy.

3.3.1 Indicators of Participative & Representative Democracy

Indicators for representative and participative democracy at varying geographical contexts were investigated from the macro of the EU 27

Member States level to the meso and micro contexts at the level of the Irish State, Dáil constituencies and local authority areas. Sources for indicators of both representative democracy and participative democracy were gained for the EU27 Member States and Ireland. Data have been generated from several secondary data sources, in order to produce the comparative statistical analysis.

Two indicators of participative democracy were investigated using various sources. These indicators are the level of volunteerism and the level of government effectiveness. These indicators were chosen because the literature shows that volunteering is an essential part of civil society and an active citizenry leads to a more effective government (Brehm & Rahn, 1997; Brooks & Lewis, 2001). The sources used to investigate these indicators at the EU 27 Member State level used the same data collection methodology in all the Member States, therefore making the data comparable.

At the macro level of the EU27 Member States, two indicators of participative democracy were investigated, levels of voluntary activity and the level of government effectiveness. The level of voluntary activity was explored using the Eurobarometer surveys 66.3 (2007) and 75.2 (2011). Data on the level of government effectiveness were sourced from the World Bank – Worldwide Governance Indicators (2010).

For the Irish context at meso and micro levels, one indicator of participative democracy was investigated, the level of voluntary activity. The 2006 Irish National Census of Population was used to source the level of voluntary activity at this at the meso and micro levels.

Two additional indicators of representative democracy were investigated using various sources at the macro level of the EU27

Member States, the level of trust in institutions of governance and voter turnout at various elections. These were selected due to the importance of voter turnout and trust as indicators of a healthy civil society in the literature (Tamvaki, 2009; Brooks, 2002, Coleman, 1990; Fukuyama, 1995).

The levels of trust in the institutions of governance included the level of trust in the EU, the EU Parliament, National Parliaments and National Governments. Data on these levels of trust were explored using the Eurobarometer surveys 72.4 (2009) and 73.4 (2010) and the EUROStat database.

The voter turnout data were secured, computed and mapped for various elections, thereby enabling both longitudinal and spatial analysis. Voter turnout at the macro EU27 Member State level was calculated for EU parliamentary elections, national presidential elections, where applicable, national legislative elections, and regional municipal elections. The voter turnout data were sourced from various databases, and collated so as to enable their mapping. For EU parliamentary election data, EUROStat was the main source; national election (legislative and presidential, where applicable) data were generated from the national statistic offices of each country and EUROStat; municipal election data were generated from the individual regions or municipalities, as there were no national figures for regional voter turnout computed.

For the Irish case, citizen participation in presidential elections, national legislative elections, municipal elections and referenda was investigated at the various spatial scales of Ireland with a specific interest in the case study areas. Voter turnout levels for Ireland at the meso level were gained from the NSD – European Election Database.

Micro level voter participation was gained from the 2009 Local Elections electoral register³ for Limerick City and North Tipperary.

3.3.2 Investigating Spatial Association

The spatial distribution of the possible associations between voter participation and voluntary activity participation was investigated and mapped. Thus starting to answer in part the final research question: what are the spatial patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism at different geographic levels?

Three independent variables which the literature had identified as affecting the spatial patterns of representative and participative democracy at the macro level of the EU27 Member States were identified, namely the presence of a compulsory voting system, the European Social Model, and levels of State decentralisation.

The level of State decentralisation in each EU27 country was taken from the model put forward by the ESPON project 2.3.2 Governance of Territorial and Urban Policies from EU to Local Level.

3.3.3 Statistical Analysis & Mapping

Comparative statistical tests were run between variables of representative and participative democracy at varying spatial scales at the macro level of the EU27 Member States, to the meso, and micro level of the Irish State. The micro level analysis involved an ED level analysis of voter turnout in both case study locations and the investigation into its association with the levels of volunteerism.

After the compilation of the necessary data, a statistical (quantitative) analysis of the associations between the elements of representative and

³ Before a ballot paper is issued the elector's name and address is crossed checked with the electoral register and a straight line is crossed against the voter's entry on the register as having arrived at the polling station and voted, this marked/checked copy of the electoral register was used to gain voter turnout figures for the 2009 Local Elections for the EDs in Limerick City and North Tipperary.

participative democracy was run using correlation tests through SPSS (IBM SPSS 19), resulting in a quantification of the determinants of the spatial distribution of representative and participative democracy at both the macro level of the EU27 Member States, and the meso and micro levels of the Irish State, and this spatial distribution was mapped using MapViewer (Golden Software MapViewer 7).

3.3.4 Mapping of Civil Society Organisations & Structures in the Selected Case Study Locations

A profile of the number and types of civil society organisations and groups that work within the case study areas, and their locations, where possible was created. This furthers the investigation into the factors and influences on the patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism.

This profile was achieved by the two data collection methods employed for this research. These approaches involved a review of Irish literature relating to civil society participation and volunteerism, and the collection of quantitative data from both primary and secondary sources.

This profile of the number, location and types of civil society organisations and groups that work within Limerick City and North Tipperary was created using several databases.

Comparative databases were used to map the different civil society organisations and groups present in both case study locations. These databases include the Community and Voluntary Forum for North Tipperary (CAVA) and Limerick City (through the PAUL Partnership), The Citizens' Information Directory of Volunteers 2008, Irish Revenue Commissioners' List of Charities 2012, Registry of Friendly Societies (RFS), Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU), the GAA (Gaelic Athletics Association), the IRFU (Irish Rugby Football Union), Macra

na Feirme, and the Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA). As a result a profile of the number and location of civil society organisations and groups that work within Limerick City and North Tipperary was created. The full list of groups / associations in both case study locations is presented in **Appendix D** (Limerick City) and **Appendix E** (North Tipperary).

In order to ascertain what type of civil society organisations and groups these were, definitions and classifications were assigned using the CSO definitions (from 2006 voluntary activity question), and those of the RFS and the ILCU. Any organisation that was not formally assigned a classification or was not self-classified was assigned a classification as a result of further research made into the organisation. These definitions and classifications are as follows:

- Social or charitable organisation
- Religious group or church
- Sporting organisation
- Political or cultural organisation
- Industrial and Provident Society
- Friendly Society
- Trade Union
- Credit Union

Resulting from this investigation each organisation and group from the consolidated group of databases was mapped (**Appendix D** – Limerick City and **Appendix E** – North Tipperary). Appropriate scales were used for these maps. For the North Tipperary organisational map only one scale was utilised, in order to cover the entire local administrative area, and to take into the account the rural landscape of the case study location, this was a small scale at 1:250,000. For the Limerick City organisational map, the same small scale at 1:250,000 was applied in order in incorporate the entire local administrative area of Limerick

City. Two maps were produced at this scale for Limerick City, with the second map highlighting centres where a high of a number of groups are located. This second map was necessary in order to develop a clearer, more comprehensive map, due to the high concentration of the urban landscape in the city centre.

Following on from this each organisation and group from the consolidated group of databases was mapped into their respective EDs (**Appendix D** and **Appendix E**). The organisational maps of the case study locations were accompanied by graphs and charts to highlight the spatial patterns associated with the different categories of organisations.

3.4 Fieldwork Research

In order to advance the research beyond the descriptive to a more in-depth understanding of the patterns and factors of civil society participation and volunteerism in the Limerick City and North Tipperary context, the next stage of the research focused on data generation that was carried out through fieldwork. The fieldwork element of the research sought to gather first-hand information from the people directly involved with civil society and voluntary activity participation, be they participants and/or service users. They included civil society leaders and volunteers from a selected community (Inch) in North Tipperary.

3.4.1 Case Sample Selection

In order to carry out the fieldwork research, a sample case at the local community (ED) level first needed to be selected. In order to choose this sample case statistical tests were run on the data generated from the desk-based research. In order to develop an in-depth investigation at this level the selection was based on identifying the EDs in Limerick City and North Tipperary with the highest scores on the indices of

representative and participative democracy. North Tipperary had clearer defined communities of volunteerism, and the ED of Inch scored high for both indicators of representative and participative democracy, therefore, as a result Inch was selected as the case sample local community ED for fieldwork research.

3.4.2 Questionnaire Survey

Two questionnaire surveys were administered within the selected case sample community of Inch.

3.4.2.1 Community & Voluntary Group Questionnaire Survey

A questionnaire survey was administered to the community and voluntary groups. This survey instrument was used to further the profile of the organisational landscape in Inch, developing upon the consolidated databases of community and voluntary groups from the desk based research in North Tipperary (**Appendix E**), through developing a profile of group membership, funding, committee meetings and elections for groups in Inch (**Appendix G**).

Before the administration of the main community and voluntary group questionnaire, a pilot questionnaire was administered to one community and voluntary group (Inch National School Board of Management) to insure that the questions, responses, layout and instructions were clear and all necessary modifications were implemented in order to reduce any flaws and errors in the data collection. The final administered community and voluntary group questionnaire can be found in **Appendix A**. The profile of the community and voluntary groups in Inch developed from this questionnaire can be found in **Appendix G**.

The first two questions were asked in order to ascertain the number, range and types of groups within the fieldwork area. Questions 3 to 7 were used to investigate the levels of citizen participation in the

voluntary/community groups, producing a profile of each group showing their membership/participation levels and a socio-demographic profile of members. Questions 9 to 11, 14 and 15 explored the extent of group activities, outputs and impacts, through finding out the number of projects delivered, percentage of funds raised (locally and externally), and participation in county, regional and/or national structures. The final set of questions (8, 12 and 13) investigated the approaches to group governance through the frequency of meetings, the rotation of officer positions, and the presence of a recruitment strategy.

The postal survey strategy was adopted in order to involve as many community and voluntary groups in Inch as possible (issued on the 06/08/2012)⁴. All 19 community and voluntary organisations in Inch received the postal survey questionnaire as their contact details were obtained from the local parish priest. However, there is a known low response rate to postal surveys, typically 30% (McLafferty, 2010), with the response rate of this questionnaire survey being 68.42%.

3.4.2.2 Volunteer Questionnaire Survey

A questionnaire survey was administered to a sample of volunteers from Inch. 50 questionnaire surveys were administered, this sample population represents 15% of the total population of Inch over the age of 15 (CSO, 2011), however, the sample population signifies 45% of the volunteer population over the age of 15 in 2006. A stratified sampling method was applied for the administration of this questionnaire survey. This sampling methodology was chosen as it reduces sampling error because a subset of the population that share at least one common characteristic are selected, in the case of this questionnaire survey the determining variables were that all respondents were

⁴ The researcher did not receive any contributions to cover the costs of printing and postage of the questionnaires.

volunteers and over the age of 15. Random sampling was then used to select a sufficient number of respondents who were volunteers.

The survey was used to acquire information about the voluntary activity, level of trust in institutions of governance and voter participation of the sample population of volunteers. Before the administration of the main volunteer questionnaire a pilot questionnaire was administered to a small sample group (10 participants) to insure that the questions, responses, layout and instructions were clear and modifications done in order to reduce any flaws and errors in this segment of the data collection. The final administered volunteer questionnaire can be found in **Appendix B** which had a response rate of 100% (issued on 20/10/2012 and 27/10/2012).

The first two questions in the volunteer questionnaire survey help develop a socio-demographic profile of the volunteers in the fieldwork area. Question 3 explored the extent of the volunteer's participation in local community/voluntary groups. Question 4 investigated the level of the volunteer's trust within different institutions of governance (Eurobarometer survey) and questions 5 and 6 examined the extent of the volunteer's turnout for elections at different levels of governance.

The face-to-face strategy was adopted as the main collection strategy as this is one of the most flexible survey strategies as the interviewer is on hand to explain any issues that arise during the administration of the questionnaire and to help draw out or further clarify answers given by respondents (McLafferty, 2010).

3.4.3 Focus groups

As part of the community and voluntary group questionnaire, the committee members who responded to the questionnaire were asked if they would be interested in partaking in a focus group with other

community leaders from Inch. Focus groups use group dynamics to generate qualitative data, and the focus group with community leaders was used to explore the factors that influence civil society participation and voluntary activity.

To prepare for this stage of the investigation, a significant body of geographical and sociological literature was consulted, to ensure that the methodological criteria and key components of focus groups were included, and complied with. Kitchen and Tate (2000) describe group interviews as generally consisting of...

...a set of three to ten individuals discussing a particular topic under the guidance of a moderator who promotes interaction and directs the conversation. The dynamics of a group discussion often bring out feelings and experiences that might not have been articulated in a one-to-one interview.

(Kitchen & Tate, 2000:215)

In accordance with this description there were nine⁵ community leaders involved in the focus group. The focus group was held on 06/10/2012 in the Inch Community Hall.

The questions followed a sequenced order based on the questionnaire survey that had been administered beforehand, but the questioning route was modified as participants spontaneously introduced topics, such as their frustration in relation to the terms and conditions for receiving funding, and raised further significant research issues. The key themes discussed were the positive effects of voluntary activity on the community; dealings with funding authorities and the frustrations that arise from this; and, barriers in place that restrict volunteering.

⁵ The nine community leaders that attended the focus group represented nine different community and voluntary groups within Inch, these were the Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg Tidy Village Committee, the Drom & Inch GAA Juvenile Club, the Drom & Inch GAA Senior Club, the Inch Community Centre Committee, the Graveyards Committee, the Inch Players Drama Society, the Inch National School Board of Management, the Inch National School Parents Association Committee, and the Inch Whist Club.

The duration of the focus group was an hour and a half. As the focus group was a 'once only' (Burgess, Limb & Harrison, 1988) group, a summary of the key points that emerged were agreed with participants at the end of the focus group, and therefore not identifying any one participant (**Appendix C**).

3.5 Research Limitations

In order to spatially analyse the patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism and the factors that influence these at various geographic levels data needed to be generated. At the higher levels of spatial analysis for the EU and Ireland, there were several comparable databases. However, when the focus of data collection moved down to the micro level of the case study regions very few databases exist.

This research relies heavily upon the 2006 CSO voluntary activity data, while Census data this is generally acceptable for use as a dependent variable as it is a robust methodological tool, that covers the entire population of the State, and can be analysed at various geographic levels (this Census data has enabled mapping of voluntary activity at ED (Electoral District) and EA (Enumerator Area) levels for the year 2006), the 2006 Census is not the most recent, and the voluntary activity question has only appeared in one Census, making longitudinal analysis difficult. In the CSO Report on the Census Pilot Survey carried out in April 2009, the question was unchanged and in the same format as in the 2006 Census, but the pilot respondents' comments on the question stated that the four week qualification was restrictive as in their opinion much voluntary work is seasonal (CSO, 2009). Therefore the CSO recommendations were that this question should not be included in Census 2011 because sufficiently robust data at national and regional level could be got from a dedicated survey (such as a Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) module) (CSO, 2009).

Another database on the level of voluntary activity in Ireland is the Irish Taskforce on Active Citizenship (ITAC) which released reports in 2002 and 2006. The national figure that the ITAC reported in 2006 (23%) is considerably higher than the national figure reported in the 2006 Irish Census (16.4%). Research data on volunteering and voluntary organisations within Ireland is limited and uncoordinated. This has led to, for example, conflicting national volunteering rates that cannot be easily compared over time (Velthuis, 2010).

Due to this dearth in localised volunteerism data possible case sample communities may have been overlooked, and it is recommended that further quantitative research at the micro level be carried out to improve current databases on voluntary activity.

3.6 Summary

Data was gained from first the completion of desk based work and then followed by the completion of fieldwork. Secondary data sources were analysed during the desk based field work, while primary data were gained from field work.

Various methods were used to generate quantitative and qualitative data for this research project. Considerable use was made of the quantitative data sources to place civil society participation and volunteerism in context, and identify a pattern. This pattern was mapped out at the various geographic levels, and statistical tests were run on the different indicators of participative and representative democracy.

Once a pattern was identified in the desk-based research, the second stage of the research (fieldwork) used a qualitative approach to uncover the processes that cause variations in participation. The fieldwork element of the research consisted of two different questionnaire surveys and a focus group. The postal community and

voluntary group questionnaire was administered first. Moving on from the results of this postal questionnaire survey a focus group was arranged with the community leaders. Once the focus group was conducted, the administration of the face-to-face volunteer questionnaire surveys was completed.

Chapter 4: Representative & Participative Democracy in the EU

4.1 Introduction

This research project is investigating factors that influence civil society and voluntary participation at various geographic levels. The macro level of investigation chosen was that of the supranational level of the EU. Therefore the 27 Member States of the EU were investigated, one of which is Ireland, in which the possible influencing factors will be investigated at the meso and micro levels. Examining data at EU level allows for testing some of the hypotheses that were identified in the literature review and it permits inter-state comparison over time. Fortunately from a research perspective some of the data sources investigated (e.g. volunteerism levels) have been compiled using the same methodologies (e.g. the Eurobarometer survey).

This chapter discusses the results of the factors of influence on volunteerism at this macro level. These factors included: the European Social Model; the level of centralisation/decentralisation and subsidiarity in State decision making; voter turnout at national level for the European Parliament elections; Presidential/Head of State elections; national legislative elections; and national municipal elections; the level of trust in institutions of governance; and the effectiveness of governance.

4.2 Representative Democracy

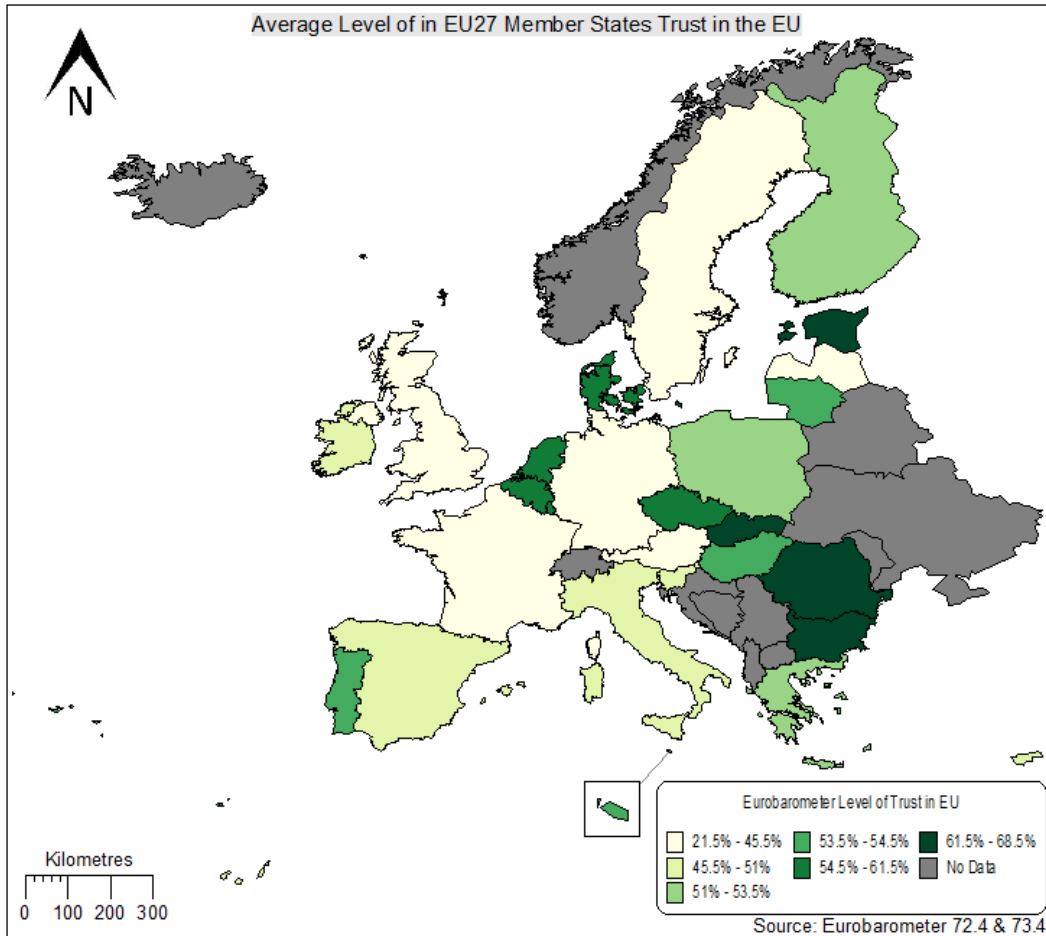
Two indicators of representative democracy were explored at the EU27 Member State level; these were the level of trust in institutions of governance and the level of voter turnout in elections.

4.2.1 Level of Trust in Institutions of Governance

The literature stated that the main side effect of civic participation is trust, therefore if there is trust present then there is civic participation, such as participating in voting and voluntary activity. As trust is seen as an influencing factor on civil society participation and voluntary activity the trust in the different institutions of governance has been investigated at the EU27 Member State level through different Eurobarometer surveys. The institutions investigated range from the supranational of the EU and the European Parliament to the national of the National Government and National Parliament.

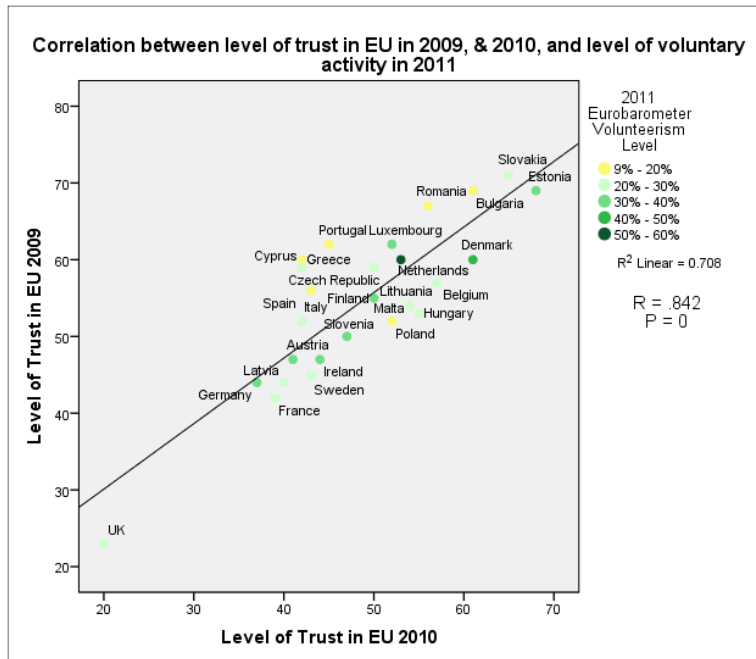
The level of EU citizens' trust in the EU was gained from the Eurobarometer surveys 72.4 in 2009 and 73.4 in 2010. The average level of trust was then calculated and mapped (**Map 4.2-1**), showing a positive correlation between the two survey trust levels with a Pearson's R value of .842 ($P < .01$). When this data was plotted onto a scatter plot graph with the different percentile bands of voluntary activity recorded in 2011 the majority of Member States cluster together in the mid-percentile bands (**Graph 4.2-1**), with some countries having recently entered the EU scoring higher, and the countries scoring lower having either a negative GDP at the times of the surveys or footing the recovery schemes.

Map 4.2-1: Map showing average level of trust in the EU 2009 & 2010 (Eurobarometer 72.4; Eurobarometer 73.4)

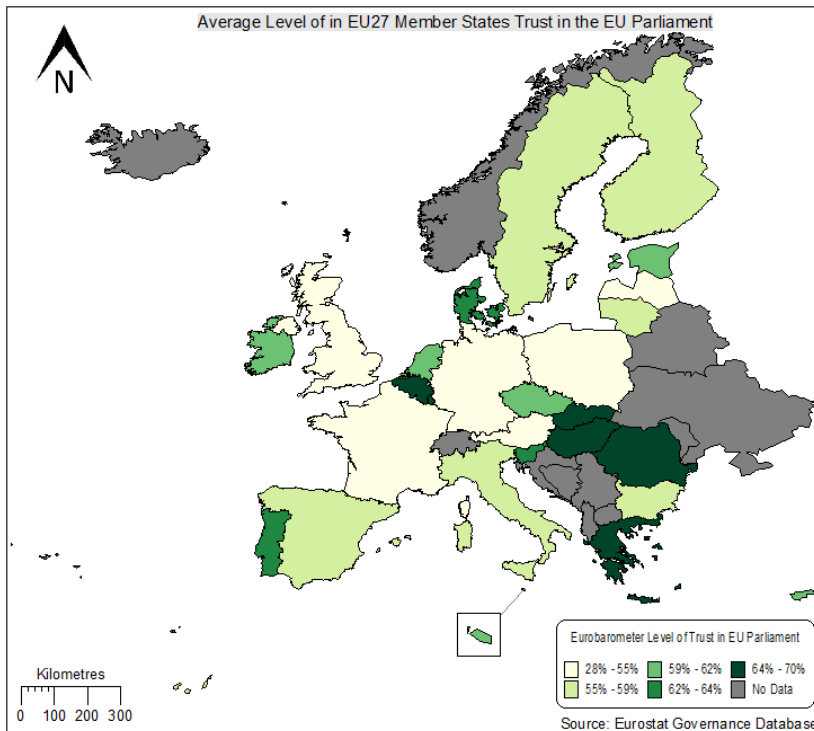


Citizens' level of trust in the EU also correlated with mean level of citizen's trust in the European Parliament (2004 – 2009) with a Pearson's R value of .825 ($P < .01$) (level of trust in EU 2009). The geographic distribution of mean level of trust in the European Parliament from 2004 to 2009 has been mapped also (**Map 4.2-2**).

Figure 4.2-1: Correlation between level of trust in EU in 2009, & 2010, and level of voluntary activity in 2011 (Eurobarometer 72.4; Eurobarometer 73.4; Eurobarometer 75.2)⁶



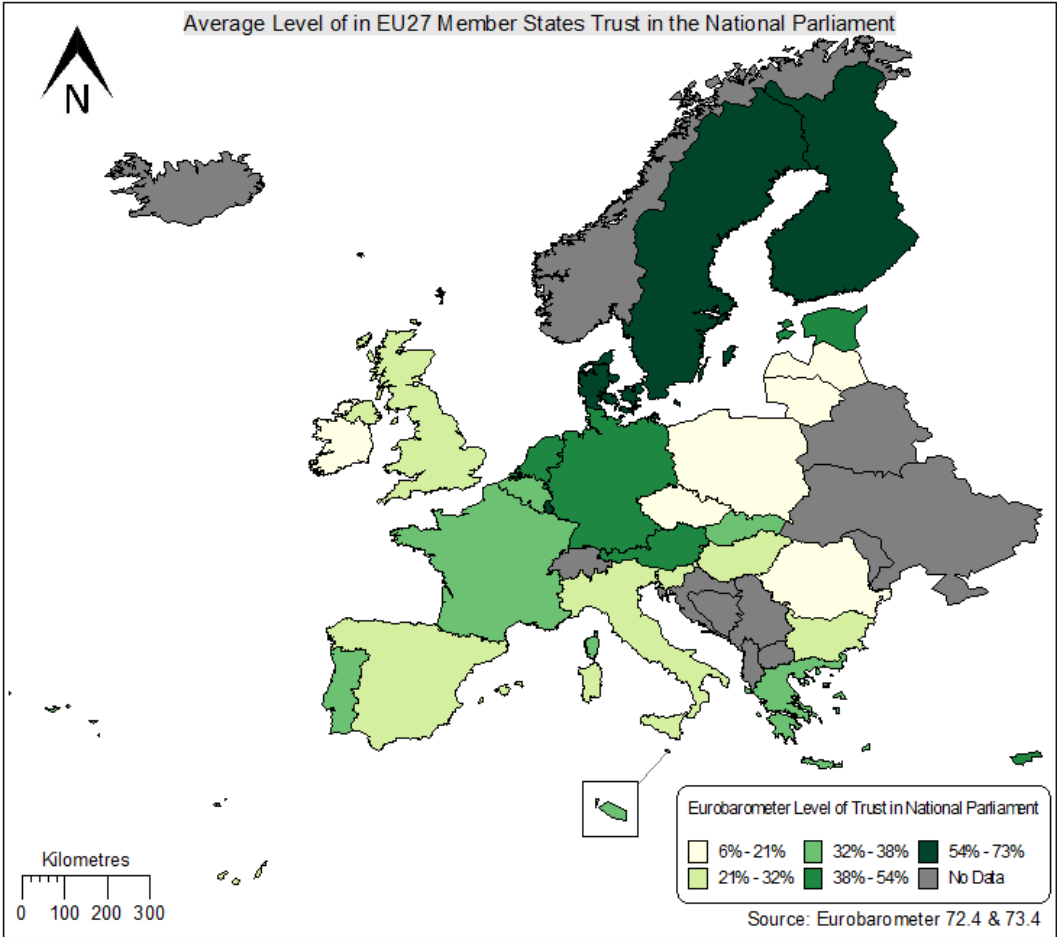
Map 4.2-2: Map showing average level of trust in the EU Parliament 2004 -2009 (EUROStat)



⁶ Question asked- How much trust you have in the following institution: The EU? Answers- Tend to Trust; Tend Not to Trust; Don't Know. The data refer to the % of people surveyed who 'Tend to Trust.'

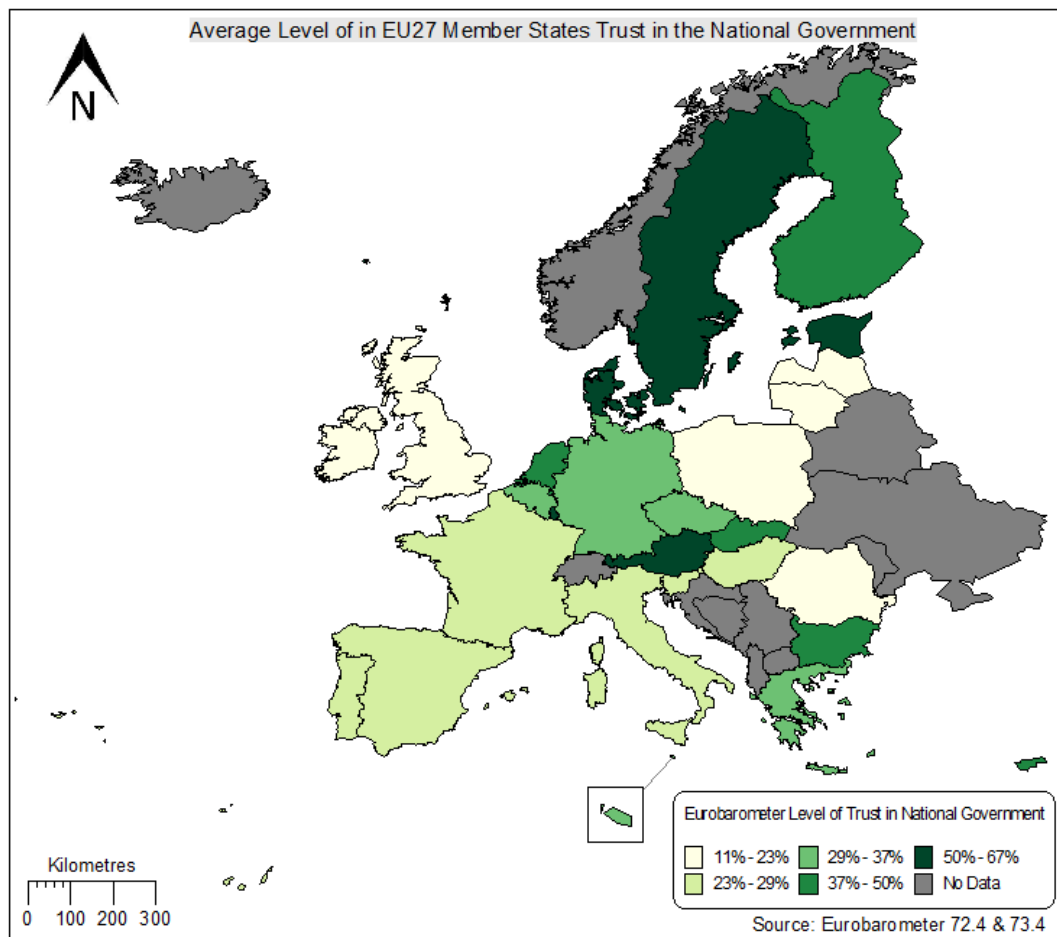
The level of citizens' trust in national institutions, the National Parliament and National Government, was also investigated in the EU27 Member States; this data was collected in the same Eurobarometer surveys. The average level of trust for both National Parliament and National Government was calculated and mapped (**Map 4.2-3 & Map 4.2-4**). The findings presented here, when analysed in the context of the map shown earlier depicting levels of voter turnout suggest that any relationship between trust and civic participation is not very strong, and is influenced by other factors, such as current discourses with the EU and economic policy orientation.

Map 4.2-3: Map showing average level of trust in National Parliament 2009 & 2010 (Eurobarometer 72.4; Eurobarometer 73.4)



The link between voter participation and trust in national institutions is however more positively correlated; these correlations ranged between the 2009 European Parliament elections (Trust in National Parliament 2009: $R=.437$ and $P<.05$), National Parliamentary elections (Mean Voter Turnout in National Parliamentary Elections from 1990/Trust in National Government 2009: $R=.627$ and $P<.01$), Presidential elections (Mean Voter Turnout in Presidential Elections from 1970/Trust in National Parliament 2009: $R=.654$ and $P<.05$), and local/municipal elections (Mean Voter Turnout in Municipal Election from 1990/Trust in National Parliament 2009: $R=.514$ and $P<.05$).

Map 4.2-4: Map showing average level of trust in National Government 2009 & 2010 (Eurobarometer 72.4; Eurobarometer 73.4)



The link between participating in voluntary activity and trust in national institutions was also found with positive correlations between the two variables found. Trust in National Government 2010 and 2007 volunteerism levels had a moderate Pearson's R value of .581 ($P < .01$), a similar finding again can be seen between trust in National Parliament 2010 and 2007 volunteerism levels with a strong positive correlation with a R value of .766 ($P < .01$). Moderate correlations are also present for the 2011 volunteerism level data (Trust in National Parliament 2010/2011 Volunteerism Level: $R = .578$ and $P < .01$).

4.2.2 Voter Turnout at Elections

According to the literature review presented earlier a higher level of civic participation leads to more effective governance, as those who actively participate in civil society are more likely than non-volunteers to exercise their civic duty to vote. It is also theorised that this civic participation makes citizens better at consuming politics making them more likely to punish a bad government at elections. As a result of this theory from the literature another influencing factor on civil society participation and voluntary activity is voter turnout.

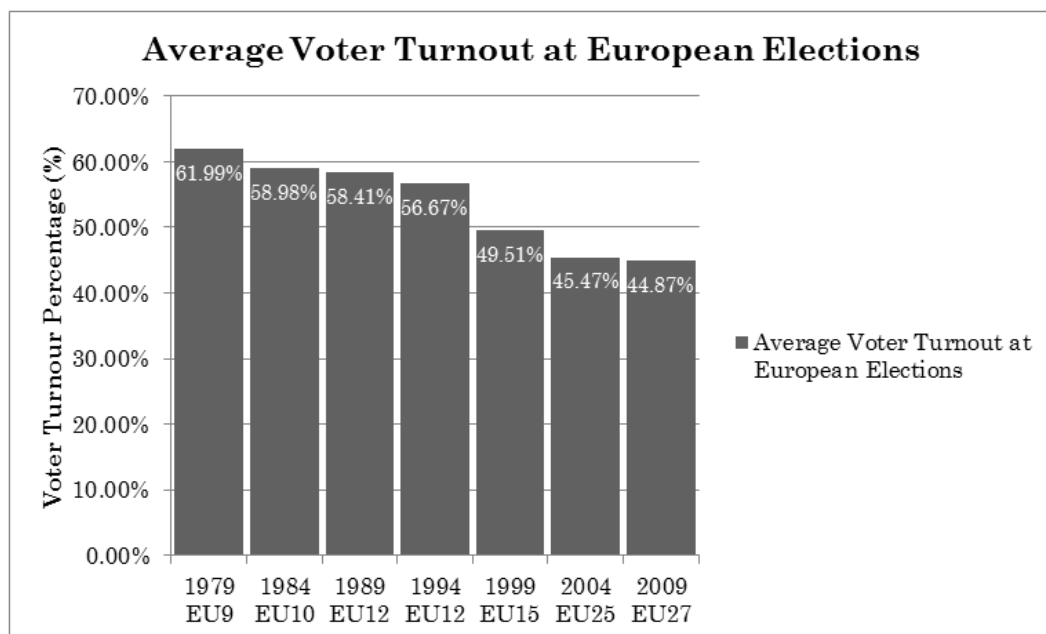
A range of social, demographic, situational and domestic factors influence voter turnout in elections, such factors include, residential mobility, political personalities, socio-economic class, housing tenure, literacy levels, access to information, transport, the day of the week the election is held, and voluntary activity. Indeed the literature (Lyons & Sinnott, 2003) suggests that the day of the week on which a vote is taken can determine the level of participation by as much as five percent.

In order to investigate possible correlations between elements of representative and participative democracy, voter turnout figures were gained from different elections held in the EU27 Member States,

dealing with a different level of governance, from the supranational level of the European Parliament, to the National Parliament, down to the local level of the National Municipal Government.

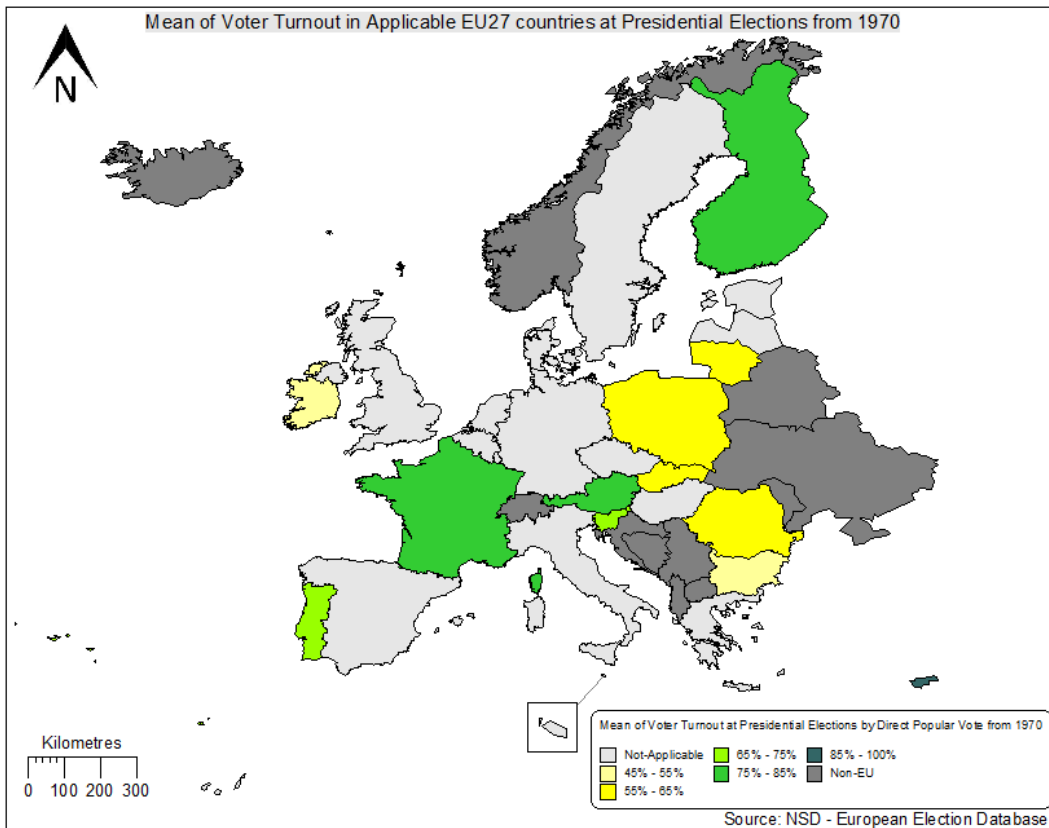
The average voter turnout for the European Parliament elections has been declining since the first election in 1979, this decline can be seen in **Figure 4.2-2**.

Figure 4.2-2: Bar chart showing the decline of the average voter turnout at the European Parliament Elections from 1979 to 2009 (EUROSstat)



While the European Parliament is elected by direct popular vote the council of Europe consists of the Heads of States and Governments of the 27 Member States. There are 12 EU Member States where the electorate directly elect their Head of State.

Map 4.2-5: Map showing the mean of voter turnout for the most recent elections for Head of State and Government in the EU27 countries that hold elections for the electorate (NSD)



In the EU27 Member States where the Heads of States and Governments are elected by direct popular franchise (i.e. the republics), the voter turnout has been mapped for the mean voter turnout figure for elections held since 1970 (**Map 4.2-5**). As can be seen voter turnout out is varied from country to country but the Eastern European countries and Ireland have scored the lowest in their overall mean of voter turnout from 1970.

While not every EU27 country had a direct electorate vote for their Heads of States, all 27 States hold national legislative elections for their National Parliaments. In the following map (**Map 4.2-6** corresponding with **Table 4.2-1**) the mean level of voter turnout is calculated from 1990. An ‘East-West’ divide can be seen on this map for voter turnout.

Map 4.2-6: Map showing the mean of voter turnout at National Parliament elections from 1990 in the EU27 (NSD)

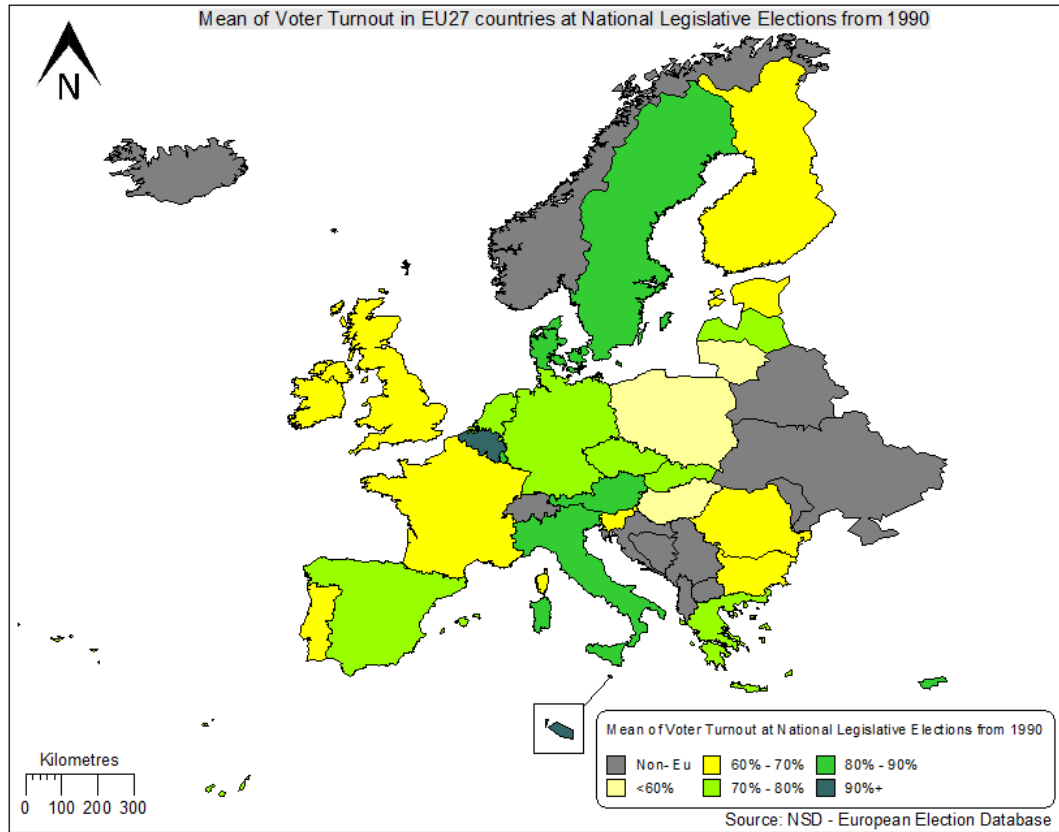
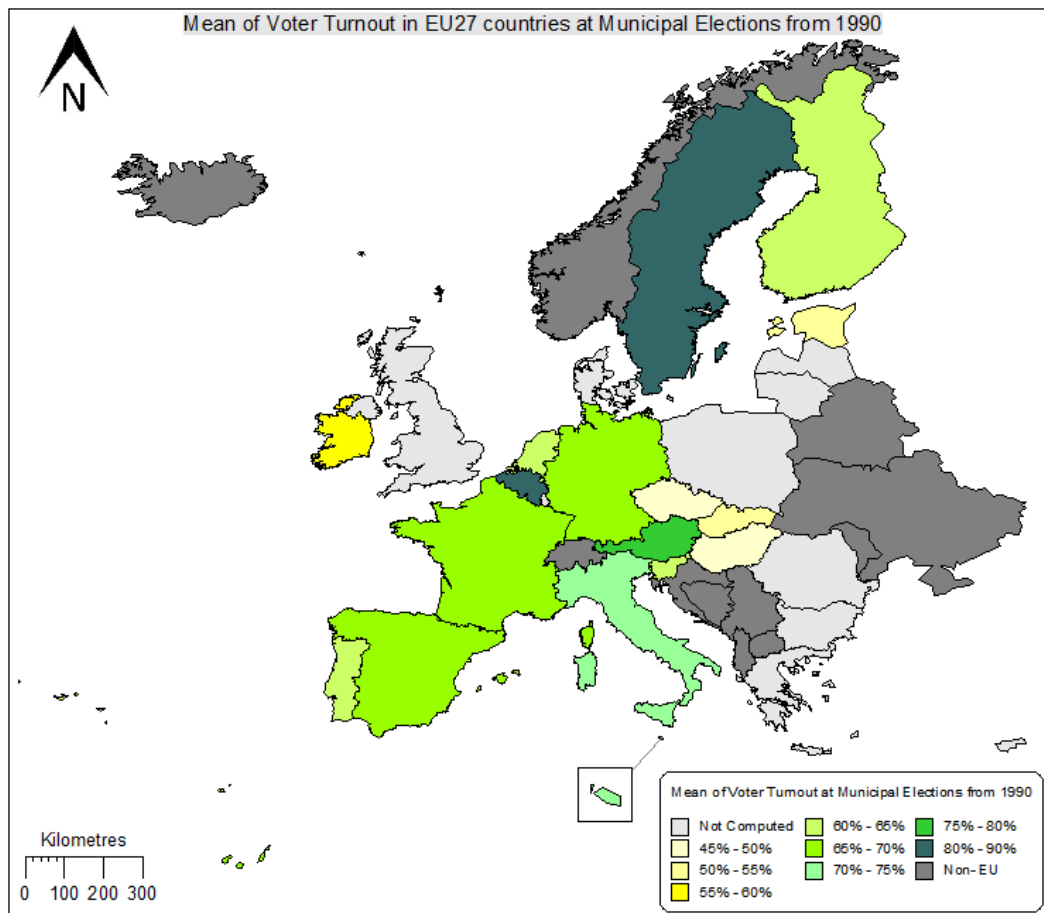


Table 4.2-1: Table showing the EU27 country breakdown for the mean voter turnout of Legislative Elections from 1990 (NSD)

EU27 Country	Mean of Voter Turnout of Legislative Elections since 1990
Malta	95.52%
Belgium	91.06%
Luxembourg	89.36%
Cyprus	88.78%
Denmark	85.22%
Italy	83.68%
Sweden	83.61%
Austria	82.78%
Netherlands	77.81%
Germany	77.74%
Greece	75.99%
Spain	75.10%
Slovakia	74.91%
Czech Republic	73.76%
Latvia	73.11%
Slovenia	68.68%
UK	67.16%
Finland	66.89%
Bulgaria	66.83%
Ireland	66.81%
Estonia	65.15%
France	64.35%
Romania	63.06%
Portugal	63.03%
Hungary	56.80%
Lithuania	56.20%
Poland	47.54%
Mean of Voter Turnout of EU27	73.37%

Every EU State has a local government system; all hold municipal elections, while most also hold regional elections. Depending on the country each municipal government has varying roles, responsibilities and powers. Not all the local municipal election data was readily available so there are countries that do not have their municipal election voter turnout computed here. In some cases only the most recent municipal election data was found, and therefore the mean is not calculated for every country from 1990. **Map 4.2-7** show this mean level of voter turnout data mapped out.

Map 4.2-7: Map showing the mean voter turnout for municipal elections from 1990 for the EU27 countries (Returning Officers of Municipality)



From the voter turnout figures that have been computed, the shows the same 'East-West' divide, that has been noted in previous maps on voter turnout at various elections, while this cannot be confirmed until

all voter turnout figures for the EU27 Member States are computed, a correlation can be observed.

4.3 Participative Democracy

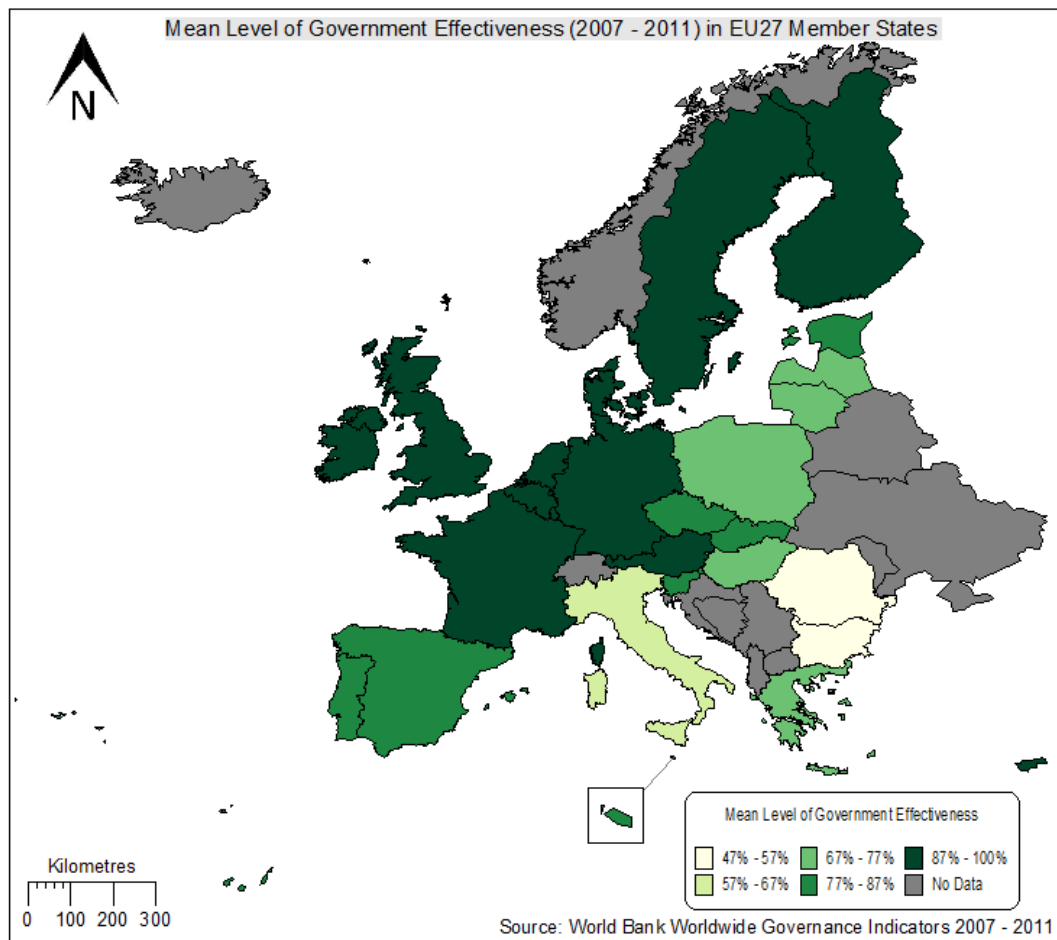
Two indicators of participative democracy were investigated; these included the level of governance effectiveness and the level of volunteerism for the EU27 Member States.

4.3.1 Level of Government Effectiveness

The literature stated that the main side effect of civic participation is trust, however trust prompts citizens to cooperate more with government and as a result this leads to more effective governance therefore it is believed that higher levels of civic participation should lead to more effective government.

Level of government effectiveness was investigated at EU27 Member State level with the data coming from the 2007 – 2011 (these years were chosen in order to be comparable with the Eurobarometer survey data on volunteerism levels). As a result of the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators Surveys the same methodology was used to gain the level of effectiveness of each of the EU27 Member States. This data has been mapped (**Map 4.3-1**).

Map 4.3-1: Map showing the mean level of government effectiveness 2007 - 2011 (World Bank)



The link between government effectiveness and voter turnout can be seen in the correlation between voter turnout at most recent national legislative elections and the level of government effectiveness with a Pearson's R value of .599 ($P < .01$). This link with voter turnout and government effectiveness can be seen further with the mean voter turnout for Presidential elections from 1970, showing a moderate Pearson's R value of .622 ($P < .05$).

The link between voluntary activity levels and the level of government effectiveness can also be seen with a strong positive correlation with a strong Pearson's R value of .746 ($P < .01$) for voluntary activity in 2007, and a positive correlation of .637 ($P < .01$) for voluntary activity in 2011.

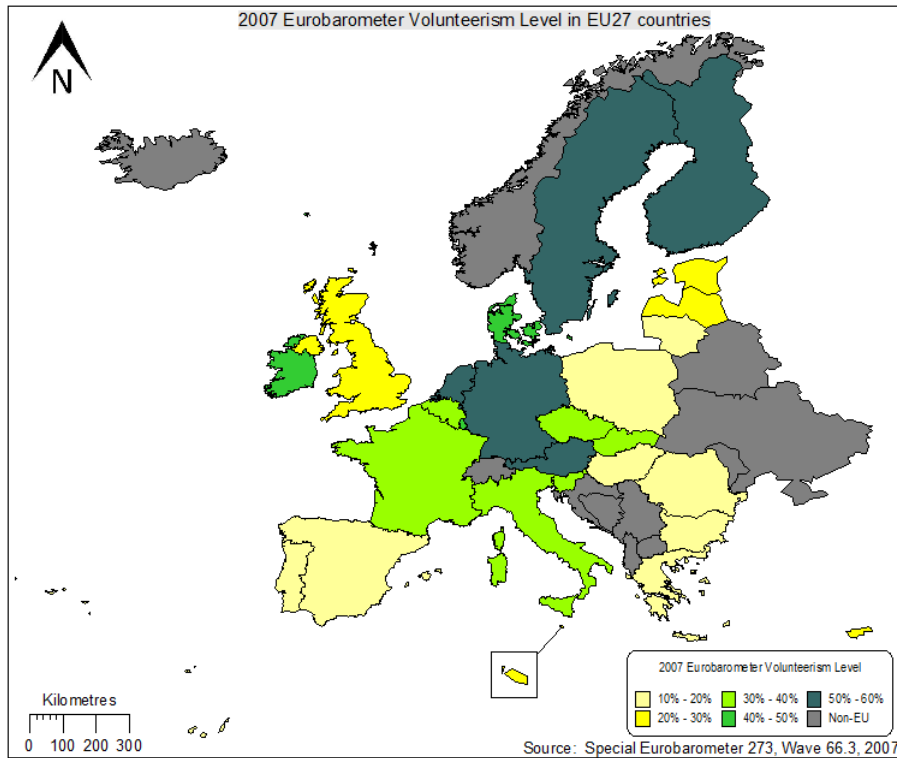
The level of governance effectiveness also links in with the factor of trust, with a strong positive correlation found between effectiveness and the level of trust in National Parliament (2010) with a Pearson's R value of .701 ($P < .01$).

As can be seen trust is linked to civic participation which in turn links into government effectiveness. The next step is to investigate the spatial patterns of civic participation by looking at the level of recorded voluntary activity.

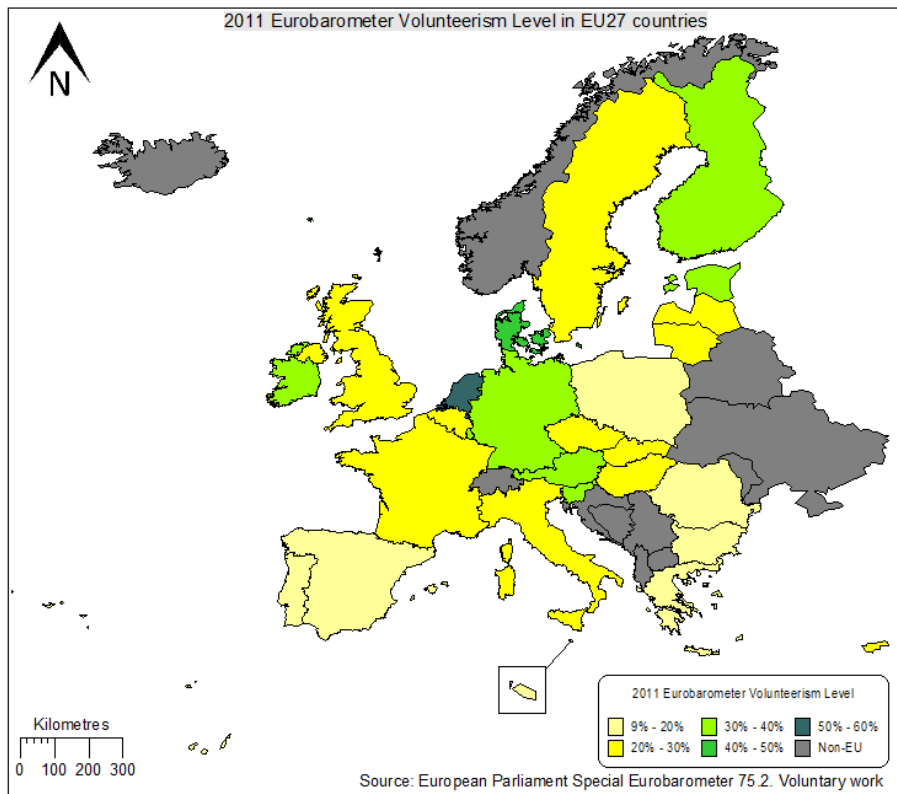
4.3.2 Level of Volunteerism

As has been shown there are various factors that influence the geographic distribution of civic participation across the EU27 Member States. Volunteerism is a form of civil society participation and data at EU level was gained from the Eurobarometer surveys 66.3 (2007) and 75.2 (2011). The timing of these Eurobarometers is very interesting, as the first survey that measures volunteerism dates back to the height of the Global Economic Boom, while the survey undertaken in 2011 was done in the midst of a Global Economic Recession. As a result, and due to a range of local and domestic factors, some notable changes have occurred in the volunteerism levels of the EU27 countries which have been mapped (**Map 4.3-2 & Map 4.3-3**).

Map 4.3-2: Map showing the volunteerism levels of the EU27 countries in 2007 (Eurobarometer 66.3)



Map 4.3-3: Map showing the volunteerism levels of the EU27 countries in 2011 (Eurobarometer 75.2)



The following table (**Table 4.3-1**) shows the breakdown between each of the EU Member States from the Eurobarometer surveys, and the changes seen between the two surveys. Most volunteerism levels for the EU27 countries have dropped from 2007 to 2011, and this could be due in part to the economic climate at the time of the surveys being conducted. Some of the most dramatic decreases seen were in Austria (60% (2007) – 37% (2011)) and Sweden (53% (2007) – 21% (2011)). Some countries had increased volunteerism levels, and the majority of these, excluding The Netherlands, were in Central and Eastern Europe.

Table 4.3-1: Table show EU member state breakdown of 2007 & 2011 volunteerism levels

EU27 Country	Eurobarometer Volunteerism Level 2007 (%)	Eurobarometer Volunteerism Level 2011 (%)	Change 2007 - 2011
Austria	60%	37%	-23%
Belgium	37%	26%	-11%
Bulgaria	10%	12%	+2%
Cyprus	23%	23%	0%
Czech Republic	33%	23%	-10%
Denmark	49%	43%	-6%
Estonia	28%	30%	+2%
Finland	50%	39%	-11%
France	36%	24%	-12%
Germany	52%	34%	-18%
Greece	18%	14%	-4%
Hungary	17%	22%	+5%
Ireland	40%	32%	-8%
Italy	34%	26%	-8%
Latvia	20%	22%	+2%
Lithuania	11%	24%	+13%
Luxembourg	45%	35%	-10%
Malta	24%	16%	-8%
Netherlands	55%	57%	+2%
Poland	16%	9%	-5%
Portugal	12%	12%	0%
Romania	18%	14%	-4%
Slovakia	33%	29%	-4%
Slovenia	35%	34%	-1%
Spain	18%	15%	-3%
Sweden	53%	21%	-32%
UK	28%	23%	-5%
Mean of voter Turnout of EU27	32%	26%	-6%

An ‘East-West’ divide can be seen in the maps in the levels of volunteerism seen across the EU27 Member States in 2007 and 2011.

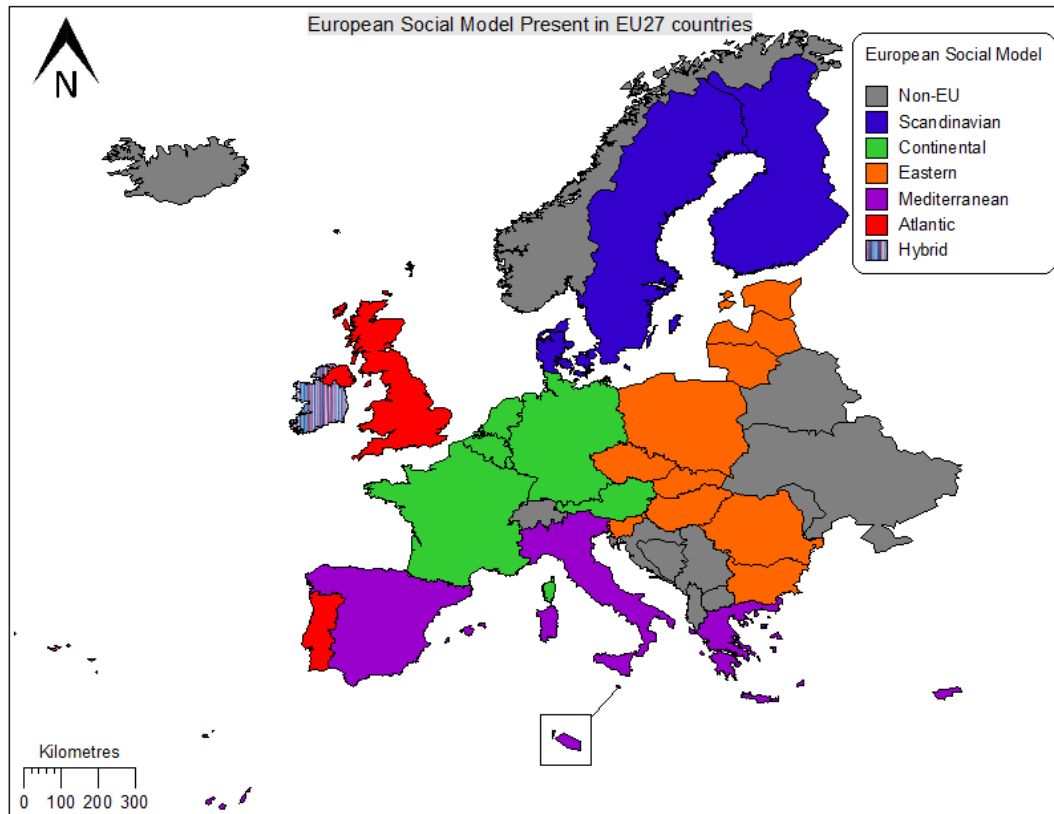
4.4 Spatial Distribution of Representative & Participative Democracy

Two indicators of spatial association were investigated in order to examine the spatial distribution of the indicators of representative and participative democracy, especially in relation to the ‘East-west’ divide that has been noted in previous maps of these indicators.

4.4.1 European Social Model

Each of the EU27 Member State pursues the European Social Model, albeit to varying degrees, which are associated with the geographical locations of the countries (**Map 4.4-1**). As this map shows and as the analysis presented in this section suggests, the European Social Model is associated with voter turnout and levels of volunteerism.

Map 4.4-1: Map showing European Social Model Present in each of the EU27 Member States⁷



An example of such clustering can be seen in the scatter plot (**Figure 4.4-1**) where three variables (Voter Turnout Mean of national Parliament Elections from 1990 in the EU27 countries, Voter Turnout at Most Recent National Parliament Elections in the EU27 countries, and the European Social Model Present in the EU27 countries) when put together create groups of countries that cluster into their variant on the European Social Model. For example the countries that have a low voter turnout at their most recent national parliament election and have a low mean voter turnout figure at national parliament elections from 1990, have clustered together at the bottom left of the scatter plot, and these countries correspond to the Eastern European variant

⁷ Eastern European Social Model can be further divided up into 2 subsections, due to the emerging social models developing in the countries; however, it was decided to consolidate these subgroups into one, for ease of differentiation between the main models with the European Social Model.

on the Social Model. Conversely, the Scandinavian model is associated with higher levels of voter turnout, while there are mixed levels in respect of States that follow the Mediterranean and Continental versions of the European Social Model. The second scatter plot (**Figure 4.4-2**) shows the same variables but this time the four countries in the EU27 with a compulsory voting system have been removed to show a clearer picture of how the European Social Model influences the civic duty of voting participation, in this case, in national parliament elections. The European Social Model is one factor that can demonstrate to some extent the presence of the geographic variances seen in voter turnout – an indicator of citizen engagement in the European countries, with the Mediterranean and Scandinavian States having the most positive results.

Figure 4.4-1: Scatter Plot showing the Correlation between Voter Turnout Mean of national Parliament Elections from 1990 in the EU27 countries, Voter Turnout at Most Recent National Parliament Elections in the EU27 countries, & the European Social Model Present in the EU27 countries (EUROStat)

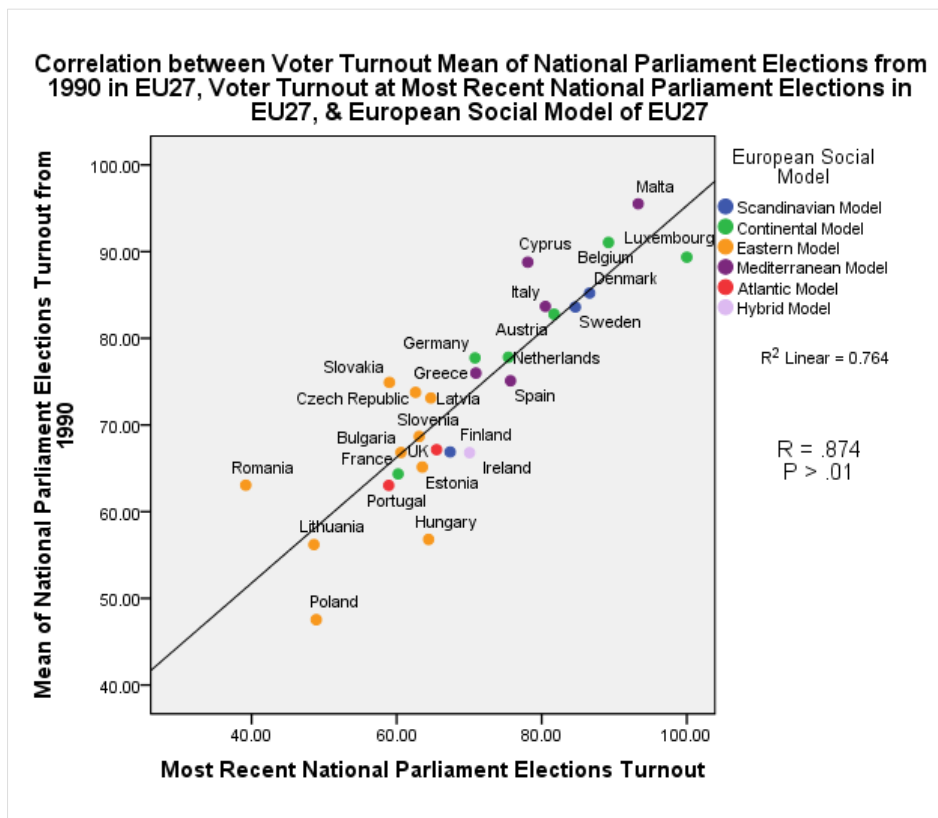
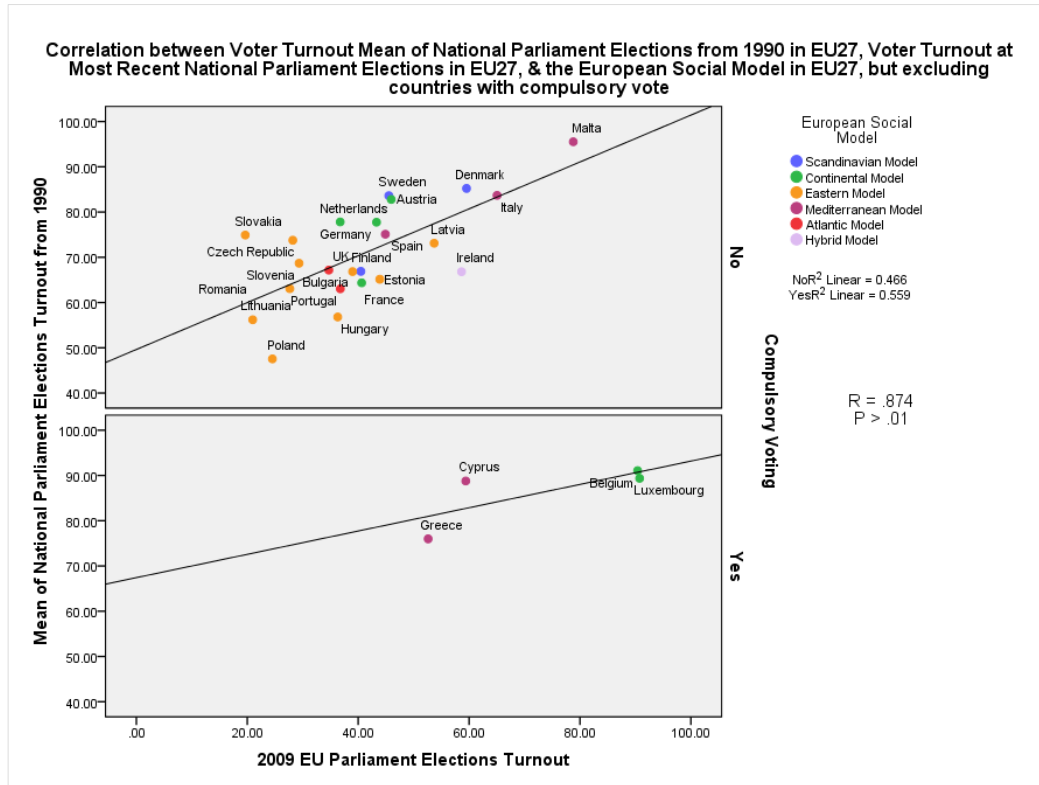


Figure 4.4-2: Scatter Plot showing the Correlation between Voter Turnout Mean of national Parliament Elections from 1990 in the EU27 countries, Voter Turnout at Most Recent National Parliament Elections in the EU27 countries, & the European Social Model Present in the EU27 countries, Excluding the Countries with Compulsory Voting in place (EUROStat)



Another factor that links into this geographic variance is the level of State decentralisation and subsidiarity in decision-making; **Map 4.4-2** shows the breakdown of the number of Member States in each European Social Model and their level of State decentralisation, showing that some of the social models are more likely to have a specific level of State decentralisation and varying levels of subsidiarity.

4.4.2 Levels of Decentralisation & Subsidiarity in Decision-Making

The 2000 Government White Paper on the relationship between the Irish State and civil society states that in order to develop an environment in which the quality of life can be enhanced for all citizens

the community and voluntary sector and the State would provide opportunities for the development of decentralised and participative structures. Therefore it can be said that in States where there is a higher level of decentralisation that there would be a stronger civil society, with more citizens participating in voluntary activity. This has been furthered at European level through the European Charter of Local Self Government (1985: Preamble) within which it was agreed...

“...that the local authorities are one of the main foundations of any democratic regime;

...that the right of citizens to participate in the conduct of public affairs is one of the democratic principles that are shared by all member States of the Council of Europe;

...that it is at local level that this right can be most directly exercised;

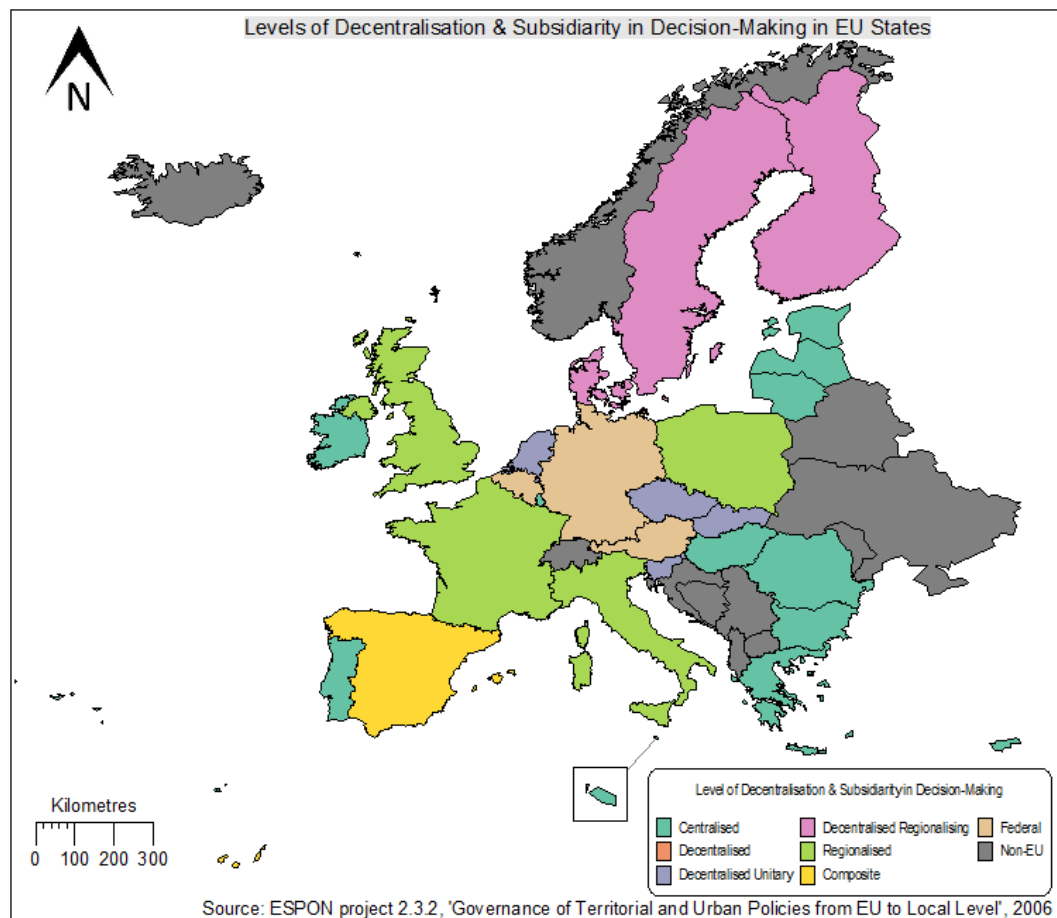
...that the existence of local authorities with real responsibilities can provide an administration which is both effective and close to the citizen;

...that the safeguarding and reinforcement of local self-government in the different European countries is an important contribution to the construction of a Europe based on the principles of democracy and the decentralisation of power;

...that this entails the existence of local authorities endowed with democratically constituted decision-making bodies and possessing a wide degree of autonomy with regard to their responsibilities, the ways and means by which those responsibilities are exercised and the resources required for their fulfilment”

In the ESPON report on State structure, the EU27 Member States were grouped into different classifications based on their levels of state decentralisation (**Map 4.4-2**).

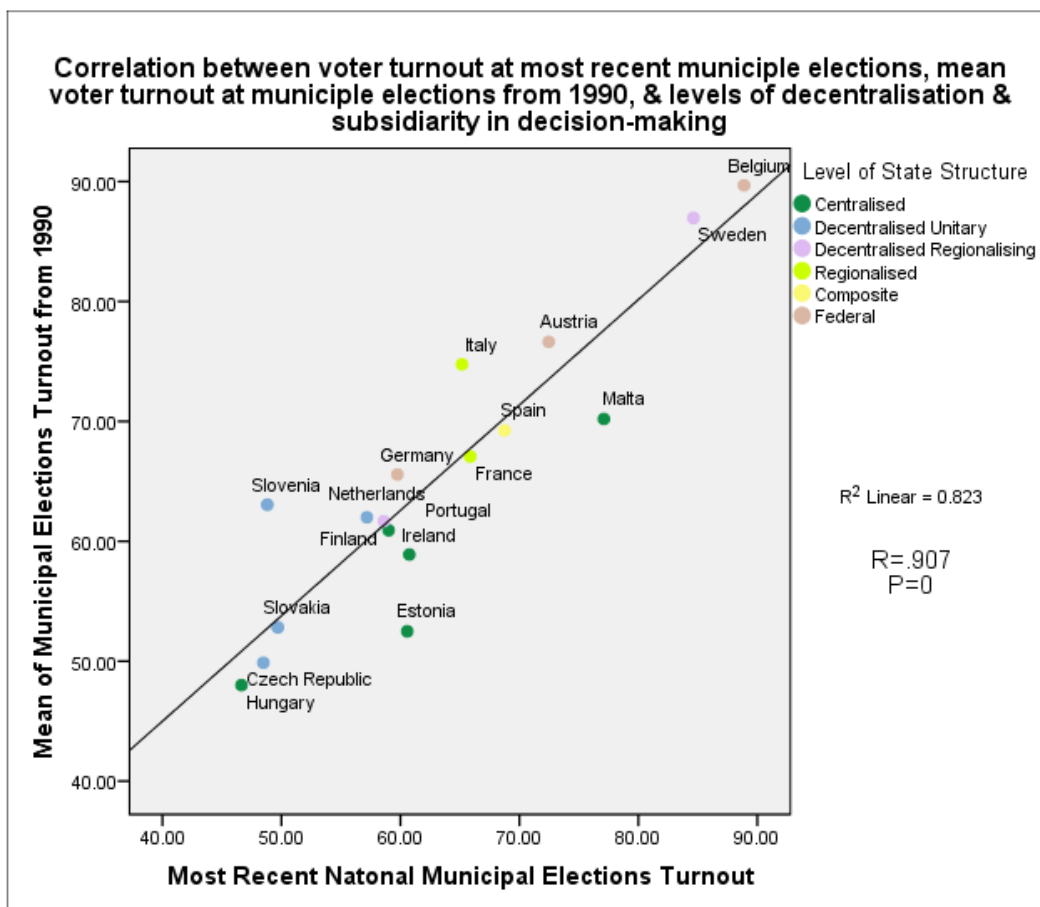
Map 4.4-2: Map showing the levels of decentralisation & subsidiarity in decision making in the EU27 Member States (ESPON project 2.3.2)



Correlations can be observed between the level of State decentralisation and voter turnout in elections and level of voluntary activity of citizens. In the case of voter turnout at the most recent national municipal elections (all municipal elections up to, and during 2011) for all the EU Member States where data was computed (21 out of the 27 EU Member States), a correlation was found with a R value of .460 ($P < .05$), showing that the more decentralised a State is, or becomes, the higher the level of voter turnout. When the correlation was investigated between the mean of voter turnout in municipal elections from 1990 (data was computed for 17 out of the 27 EU Member States) and level of State decentralisation, a stronger correlation was again revealed with a Pearson's R value of .578 ($P < .05$),

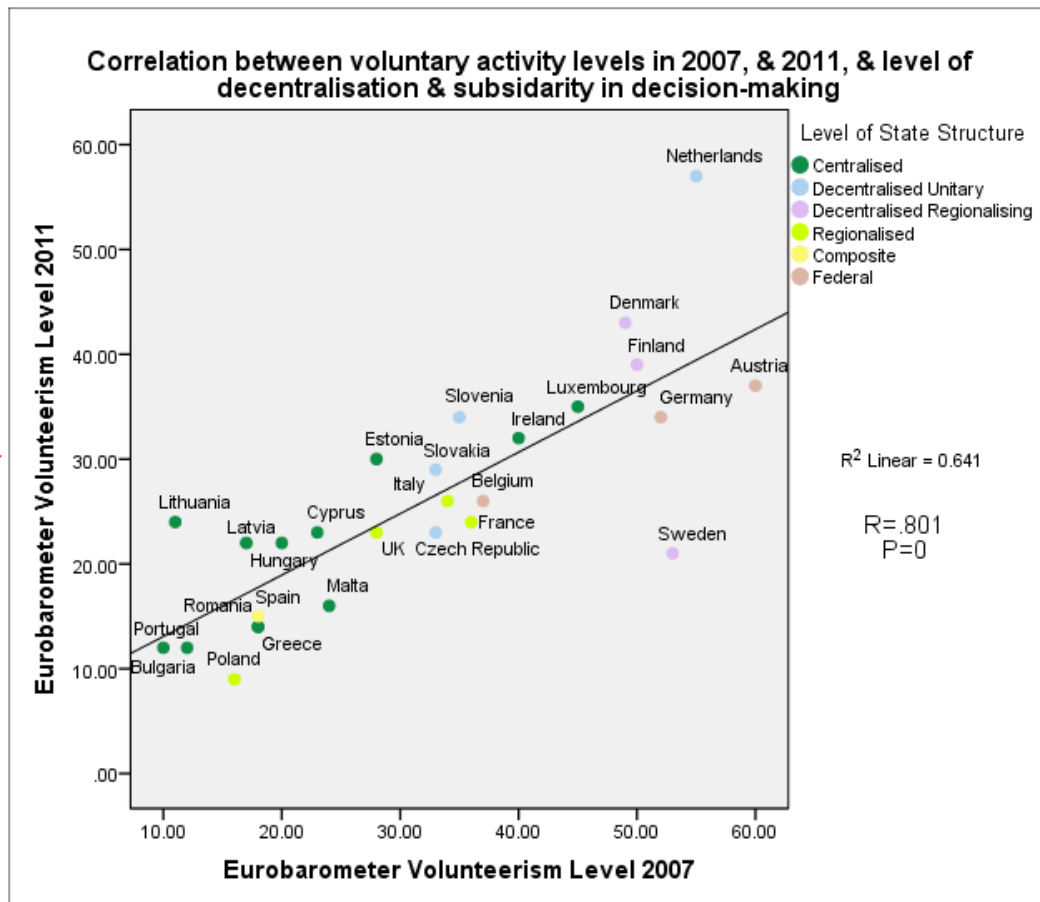
showing again that as States became more decentralised, voter turnout increased. These correlations can be seen clearly the scatter plot (Figure 4.4-3), where States with higher levels of decentralisation cluster together at higher levels of voter turnout in national municipal elections.

Figure 4.4-3: Scatter plot showing the correlation between voter turnout at most recent national municipal elections, mean voter turnout at national municipal elections from 1990, and level of decentralisation & subsidiarity in decision-making (Returning Officers of Municipality; ESPON project 2.3.2)



When the correlation was investigated between the two variables of levels of State decentralisation and levels of voluntary activity (Eurobarometer 66.3, 2007) a correlation was found with a R value of .433 (P<.05). This correlation shows that as States become more decentralised, the level of voluntary activity by citizens' increases. This correlation can be seen in the Figure 4.4-4 below.

Figure 4.4-4: Scatter plot showing the correlation between voluntary activity levels in 2007, and 2011, and level decentralisation & subsidiarity in decision-making (Eurobarometer 66.3; Eurobarometer 75.2; ESPON project 2.3.2)

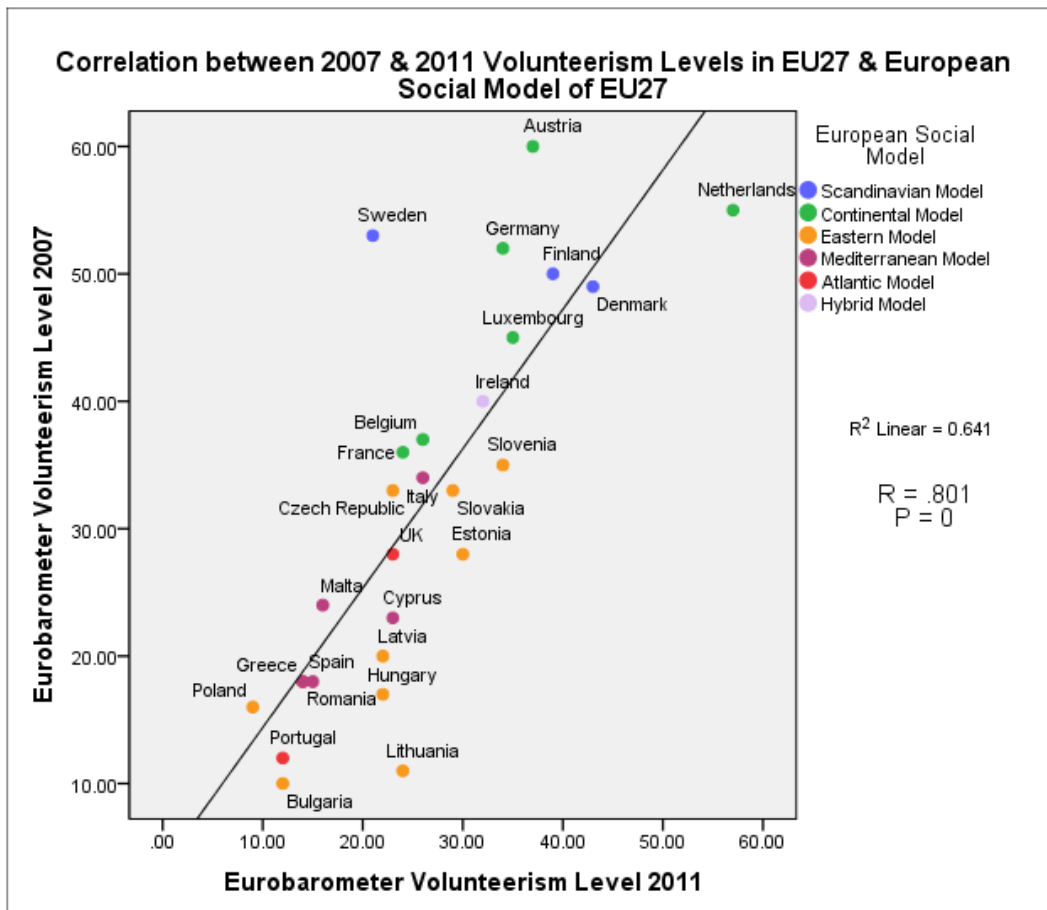


4.5 Variance of Civil Society Participation & Volunteerism

Investigating further into the geographical variances seen in the volunteerism levels, a number of statistical tests were undertaken to investigate any possible correlations between the 2007 and 2011 volunteerism levels and the European Social Model of the EU27 countries. The correlation found is illustrated in the following scatter plot (**Figure 4.5-1**) where the countries have grouped/clustered together according to their social model. This clustering seen also related to the correlation seen in Graph 5.4-2, where the more centralised states have clustered at the lower end of the graph. This pattern of clustering ties in with the ‘East-West’ divide that has been

seen in the mapped out factors, and which is also visible in **Map 4.3-2** and **Map 4.3-3**.

Figure 4.5-1: Scatter plot showing the correlation between the European Social Model of the EU27 countries and the Eurobarometer Volunteerism Levels of 2007 and 2011 (Eurobarometer 66.3; Eurobarometer 75.2)



No significant correlation was found between the voter turnout of the 2009 European Parliament elections in the EU27 countries and their Eurobarometer Volunteerism Levels in 2007 and 2011. While there was no significant relationship as illustrated in the following figures (**Figure 4.5-2 & Figure 4.5-3**) show that there is still some clustering of the EU27 countries into their social model groups, and into their different level of State decentralisation.

Figure 4.5-2: Pattern in voter turnout in European Parliament elections (2009), voluntary activity level in 2007, the European Social Model and level of State decentralisation for each EU27 Member State (EUROStat; Eurobarometer 66.3; ESPON project 2.3.2)

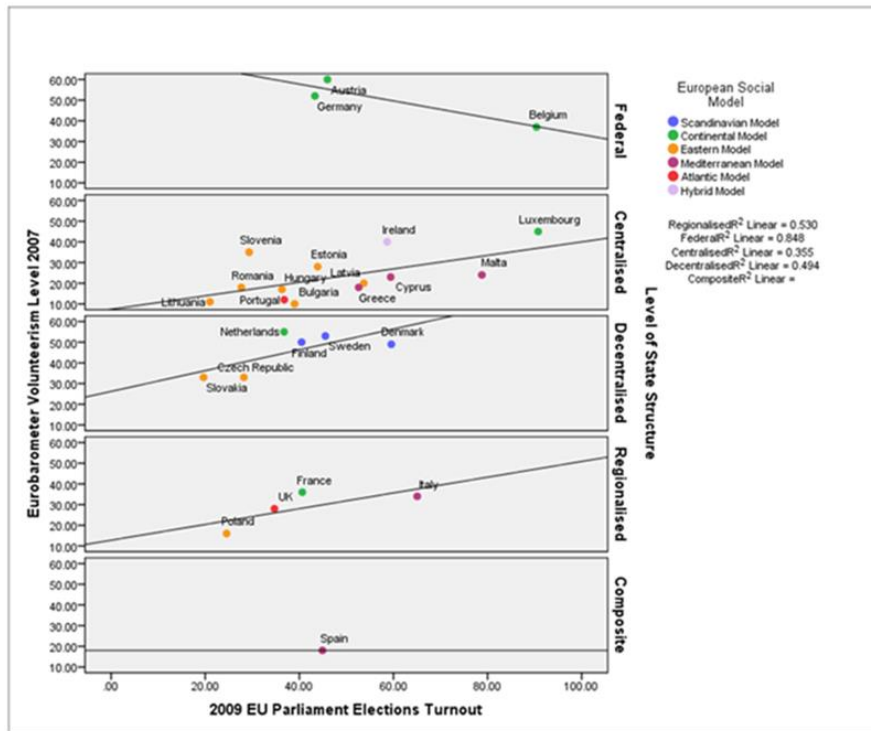
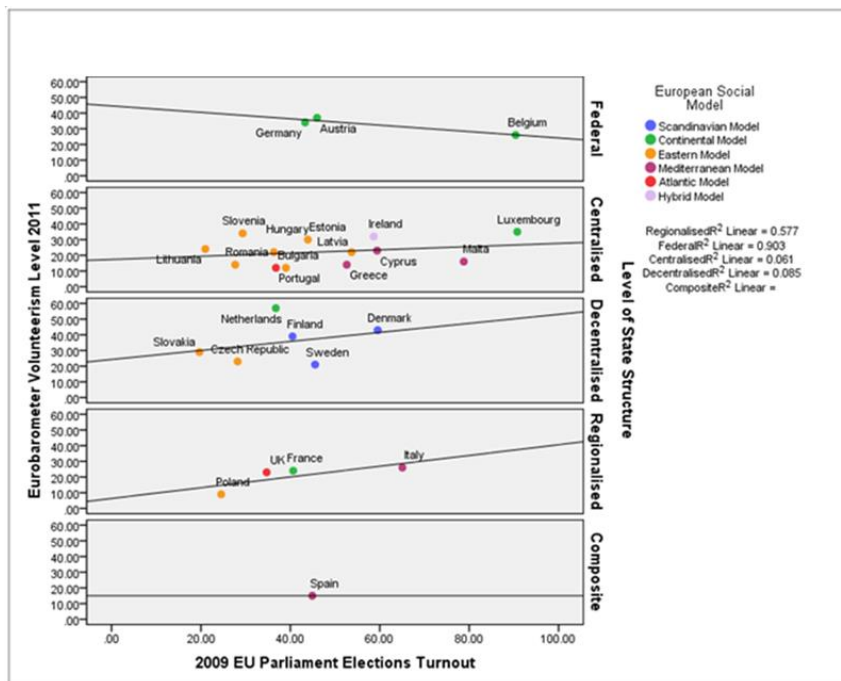
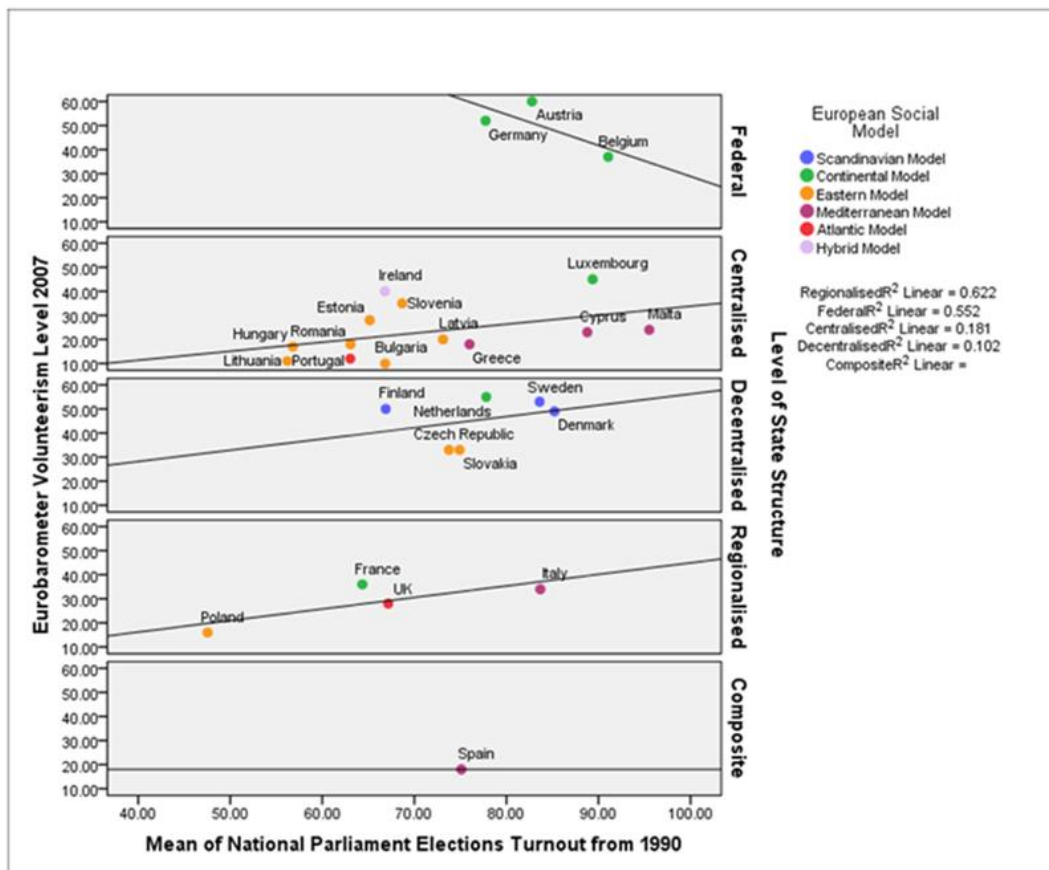


Figure 4.5-3: Pattern in voter turnout in European Parliament elections (2009), voluntary activity level in 2011, the European Social Model and level of State decentralisation for each EU27 Member State (EUROStat; Eurobarometer 75.2; ESPON project 2.3.2)



A moderate correlation can be seen, however, between the Mean Voter Turnout of National Parliament Elections from 1990 and the Eurobarometer Volunteerism Levels in 2007 ($R=.478$; $P<.05$). This correlation can be seen clearly on the following scatter plot (**Figure 4.5-4**) where the countries have again grouped into their social model groups and level of State decentralisation.

Figure 4.5-4: Pattern in mean voter turnout in national legislative elections from 1990, voluntary activity level in 2007, the European Social Model and level of State decentralisation for each EU27 Member State (EUROStat; Eurobarometer 66.3; ESPON project 2.3.2)



However, there is no significant correlation between the Mean Voter Turnout of National Parliament Elections from 1990 and the Eurobarometer Volunteerism Levels in 2011. But similar grouping can be seen as the countries cluster together into their social model groups and level of State decentralisation (**Figure 4.5-5**).

Figure 4.5-5: Pattern in mean voter turnout in national legislative elections from 1990, voluntary activity level in 2011, the European Social Model and level of State decentralisation for each EU27 Member State ((EUROStat; Eurobarometer 75.2; ESPON project 2.3.2)

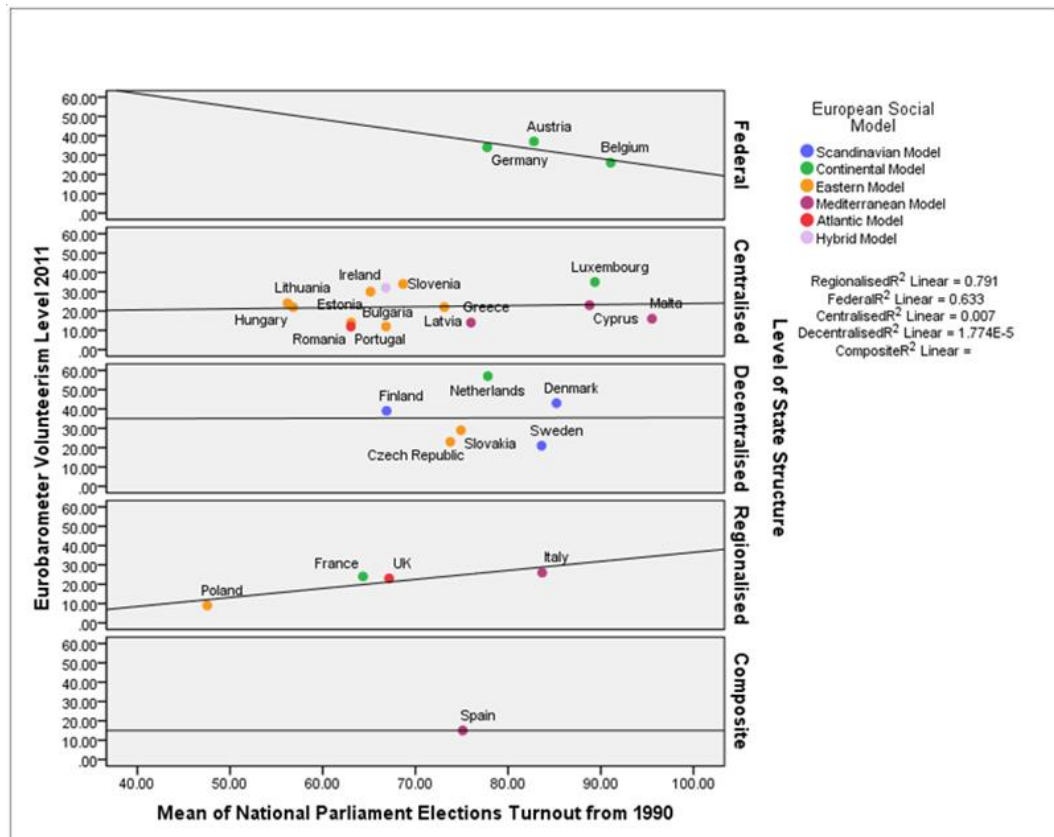
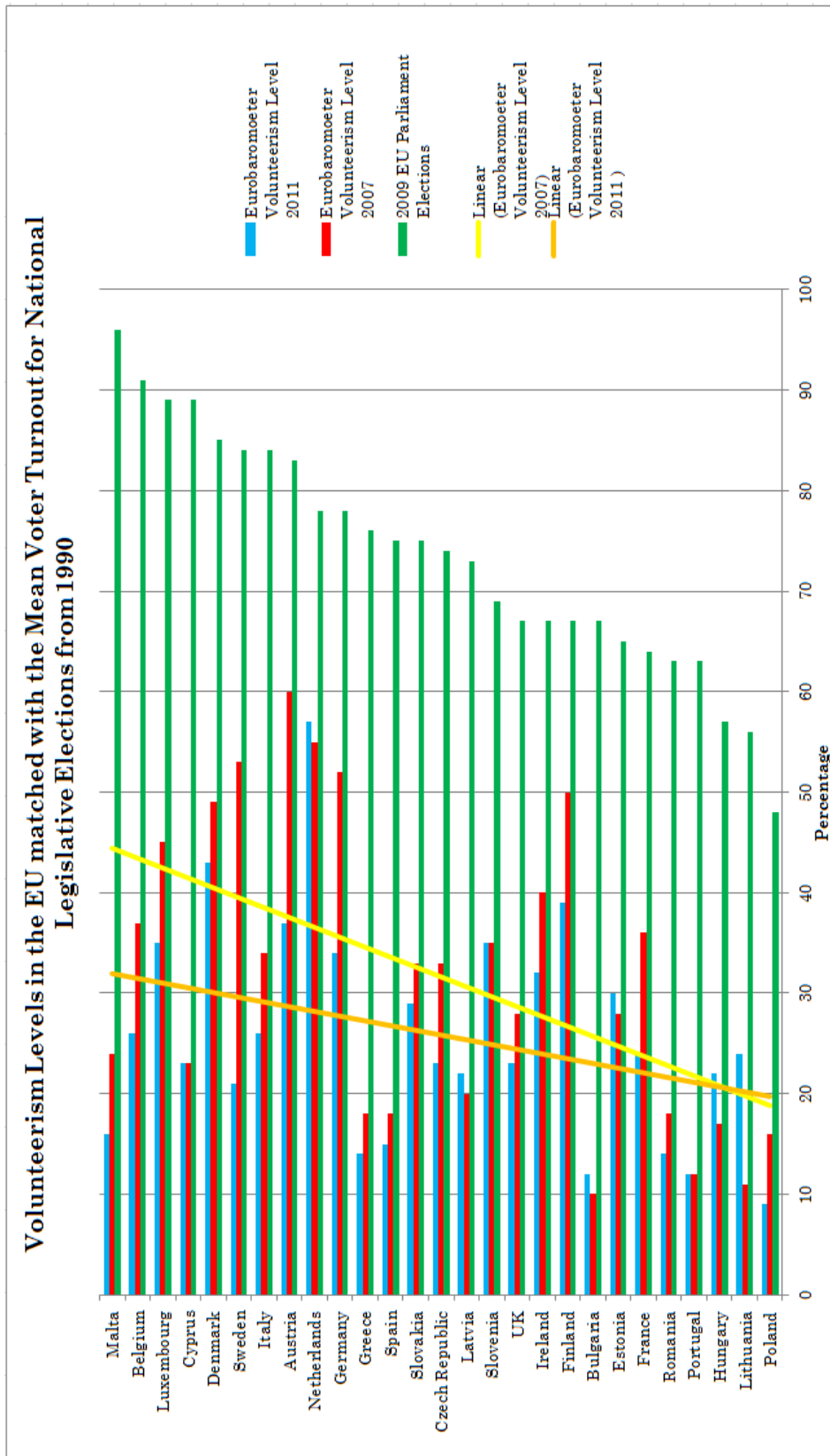


Figure 4.5-6 shows the 2007 and 2011 Eurobarometer Volunteerism Levels for the EU27 countries alongside the mean voter turnout for national legislative elections from 1970. This bar chart shows clearly how each of the EU Members States score on each variable.

Figure 4.5-6: Bar chart showing mean voter turnout for national legislative elections from 1990 and Eurobarometer level from 2007 and 2011 (EUROStat; Eurobarometer 66.3; Eurobarometer 75.2)



The same geographic distribution has been seen in the voter turnout figures for elections at the different levels of representative democracy. The factors that have influenced this geographic distribution are the level of State decentralisation and the European Social Model, which has been suggested by the literature. But other factors have also been attributed to influencing voter turnout figures in the literature, and these factors are the level of trust in institutions of governance and the level of government effectiveness – actual and perceived. The correlation between voter participation levels and voluntary activity participation levels can be clearly seen in **Figure 4.5-6**. The countries with the lowest level of mean voter turnout for national legislative elections from 1990 are Eastern European, with the exception of France. The 2007 volunteerism levels decline at a sharper rate, as voter turnout reduces, than the decline seen in the 2011 volunteerism levels (which are lower than the 2007 volunteerism levels overall). This decline seen with the two linear lines for Eurobarometer levels, from 2007 and 2011, decrease as voter turnout levels also decrease, matching up with the link and correlation that exists between voter participation and voluntary activity participation (Pearson's $R=.478$; $P<.05$ - mean voter turnout for national legislative elections from 1990/Eurobarometer levels from 2007).

4.6 Conclusion

This chapter has presented the results gained from the collection, analysis and mapping of the data from secondary sources pertaining to specific factors that influence civil society participation and volunteerism in the EU27 Member States. Selected independent variables were investigated in order to ascertain their influence on civil society and voluntary participation at the EU27 level. These variables included: the presence of a compulsory voting system; the European Social Model; the level of State decentralisation; voter turnout at

national level for the 2009 European Parliament elections; Presidential/Head of State elections; national legislative elections; and national municipal elections; the level of trust in institutions of governance; and the effectiveness of governance.

When the data was analysed correlations were discovered between some indicators of representative and participative democracy (**Table 4.6-1**), linking in with the literature showing that civic participation was linked to voter participation, leading to a more effective government, resulting in higher levels of trust in government. While correlations were found between participative democracy and representative democracy, correlations were also discovered within each strand of democracy – representative and participative (**Table 4.6-1**).

Table 4.6-1: Correlation Found between, and within Indicators of Representative & Participative Democracy

Representative Democracy	Participative Democracy	P	R
Voluntary Activity	Parliamentary Elections Turnout	<95%	.479
Voluntary Activity	Trust in National Parliament	<99%	.712
Link within Representative Democracy			
Voluntary Activity	Government Effectiveness	<99%	.766
Link within Participative Democracy			
Parliamentary Elections Turnout	Trust in National Parliament	<99%	.647

When the data was mapped, spatial patterns were discovered that further linked into the research, an ‘East-West’ divide was seen in the maps and this correlates to some extent with the European Social Model and also the level of decentralisation and subsidiarity in decision-making.

From this macro analysis the meso data analysis and mapping for the Irish case can be investigated looking at the factors influencing voter turnout and volunteerism levels and their spatial patterns.

Chapter 5: Representative & Participative Democracy in Ireland

5.1 Introduction

The results at the EU27 Member State level show that the factors put forward in the literature, such as voter turnout and systems of government influence civil society participation and volunteerism, and that there are notable spatiality related to these factors. It is important to investigate where Ireland sits within the European context with the factors that influence civil society participation and volunteerism and to investigate these factors at the meso/national level.

Ireland is a liberal parliamentary democracy. The National Parliament or Oireachtas consists of the President and the two Houses of Parliamentary Representatives; these are Dáil Éireann, the House of Representatives, and Seanad Éireann, the Senate. The functions and powers of the Oireachtas derive from the Constitution of Ireland enacted by the People on the 1st of July, 1937. Ireland does not have a compulsory voting system in place. The electoral system in place is that of proportional representation by single transferable vote in multi-seat constituencies. This system applies in elections for the Dáil, Seanad, European Parliament and Local Authorities and voting is by secret ballot. For the Presidential election, voters may also use the single transferrable vote, with Ireland being considered a single constituency.

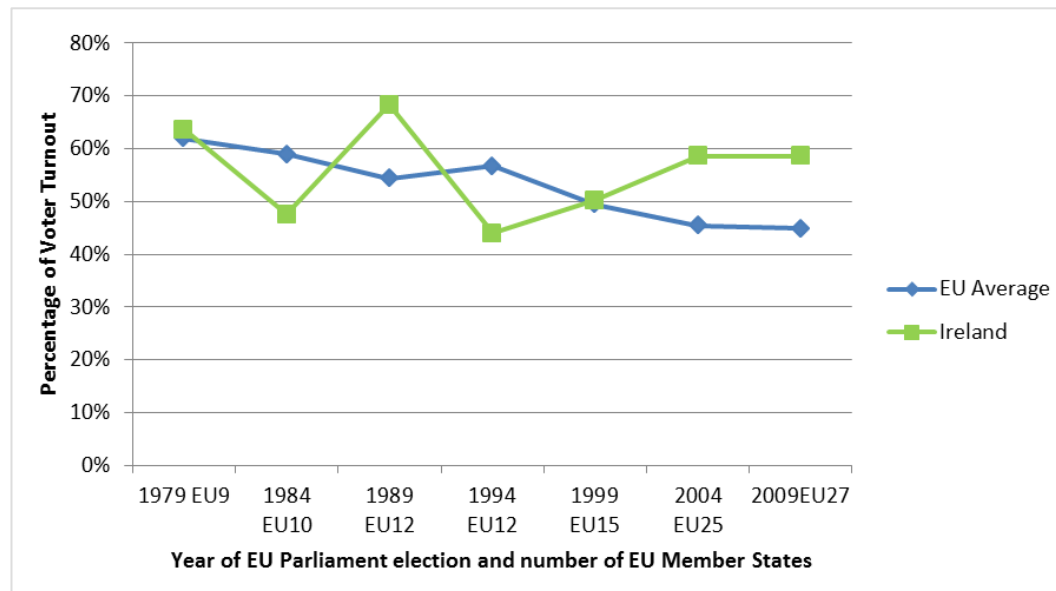
In parallel with the previous chapter, this chapter investigates the factors that influence civil society participation and volunteerism in Ireland, and specifically voter turnout in elections (European Parliament elections, Presidential elections, general elections, local elections) and referenda. This data has been investigated and mapped

at various geographic levels from the national level, to the Dáil Constituency level, to the local electoral area level and to the electoral division level.

5.2 Voter turnout in European Parliament Elections

Ireland became a member of the European Economic Community (currently the European Union) in 1973. And as a result the citizens of Ireland have been participating in European Parliament direct elections since 1979. The most recent European Parliament election was in 2009 and Ireland had a voter turnout of 57.57% at the election. The voter turnout in Ireland for the European Parliament elections has remained constant over time with an average of 55.84%. While the average voter turnout in the EU27 Members States for the European Parliament elections has been declining, Ireland has mostly remained above the EU27 average of 53.70% (**Figure 5.2-1**).

Figure 5.2-1: Average Voter Turnout at European Parliament elections in the EU Member States and Ireland (EUROStat)



Ireland currently elects 12 Members of European Parliament (MEPs) in four constituencies namely Dublin (Dublin city and county), East (all

Leinster counties except Dublin, Co. Longford and Co. Westmeath), North and West (all Connacht counties in addition to Co. Clare, Co. Longford, Co. Westmeath and the 3 Ulster Counties in the Republic of Ireland), and the South (all Munster counties except Co. Clare). In 2004 the national average for turnout was 58.79%, and this figure has remained steady with the average turnout in 2009 being 57.55%.

Table 5.2-1: Voter turnout in European Parliament elections for the 4 constituencies of Ireland (NSD)

	1994	1999		2004	2009
Connaught Ulster	47.87%	61.35%	North-West	63.29%	63.43%
Dublin	37.16%	36.14%	Dublin	52.95%	50.79%
Leinster	43.08%	50.53%	East	57.39%	56.81%
Munster	48.98%	56.17%	South	61.51%	59.18%

As can be seen in **Table 5.2-1**, the highest voter turnout in the 2009 European Parliament elections was in the North–West Constituency at 63.43%. This constituency has had the highest voter turnout in European Parliament elections except in 1994 where the Munster/South Constituency had a voter turnout of 48.98%, 1.11% higher than in the north-West/Connaught Ulster Constituency (**Table 5.2-1**). This data suggests that rurality is positively associated with voter turnout, while Dublin – the most urbanised constituency consistently has the lowest level of turnout.

5.3 Voter turnout in Irish Presidential Elections

Ireland’s Head of State is the President, and this personage is directly elected for a term of seven years, and the office can be held for a maximum of two terms. As Ireland is considered a single constituency for the presidential election voter behaviour in respect of transfer patterns can only be calculated at this aggregate level. However, a

more detailed geographical breakdown of voter turnout including at Dáil Constituency and Electoral Division levels can be gained from the percentage of votes each presidential candidate received on first count. The most recent presidential election was held in 2011 with a voter turnout of 56.11%. The voter turnout for the 2011 election falls below the average Presidential election turnout from 1938 of 59.54%, however, voter turnout increased from the previous Presidential election held in 1997 which had a voter turnout of 47.60% (**Table 5.3-1**).

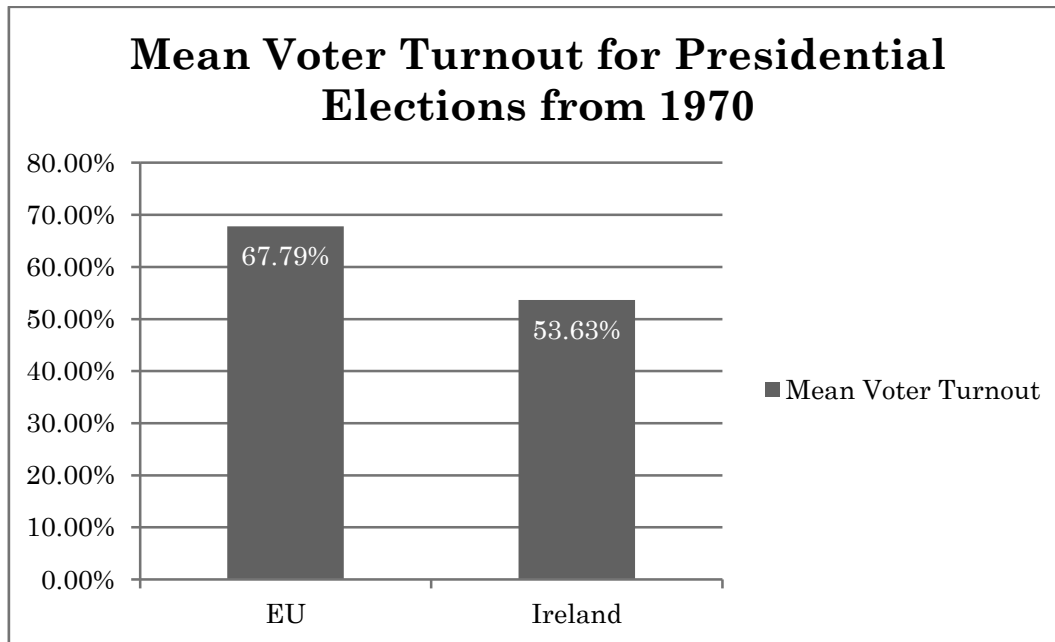
Table 5.3-1: Year of, election voter turnout and President elected for Presidential election in Ireland

Year	Election Turnout	President Elected
1938	Uncontested	Douglas Hyde
1945	63.02%	Seán T. Kelly
1952	Uncontested	Seán T. Kelly
1959	58.37%	Eamon de Valera
1966	65.35%	Eamon de Valera
1973	62.22%	Erskine Childers
1974	Uncontested	Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh
1976	Uncontested	Dr Patrick Hillery
1983	Uncontested	Dr Patrick Hillery
1990	64.10%	Mary Robinson
1997	47.60%	Mary McAleese
2004	Uncontested	Mary McAleese
2011	56.11%	Michael D Higgins

On average, from 1970 the voter turnout for Irish Presidential elections is below that of the average voter turnout for the EU member states in which direct elections are held for the Head of State. For the EU12 Member States the mean voter turnout from 1970 is 67.79%,

with a mean voter turnout for Ireland from 1970 of 53.63% (**Figure 5.3-1**).

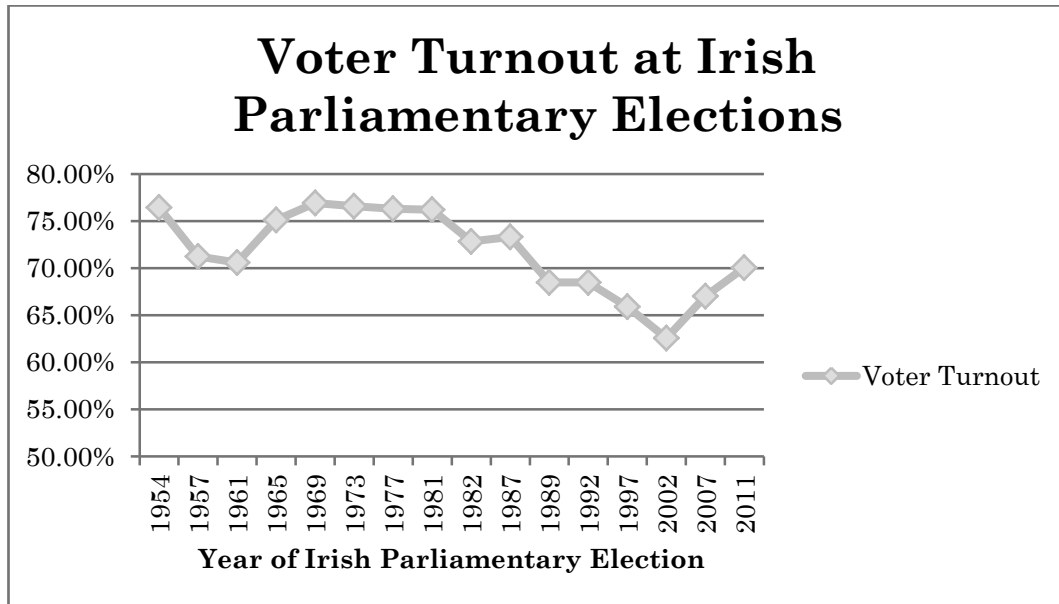
Figure 5.3-1: Mean voter turnout for Presidential elections from 1970 in applicable EU Member States and Ireland (NSD)



5.4 Voter turnout in Irish General Elections

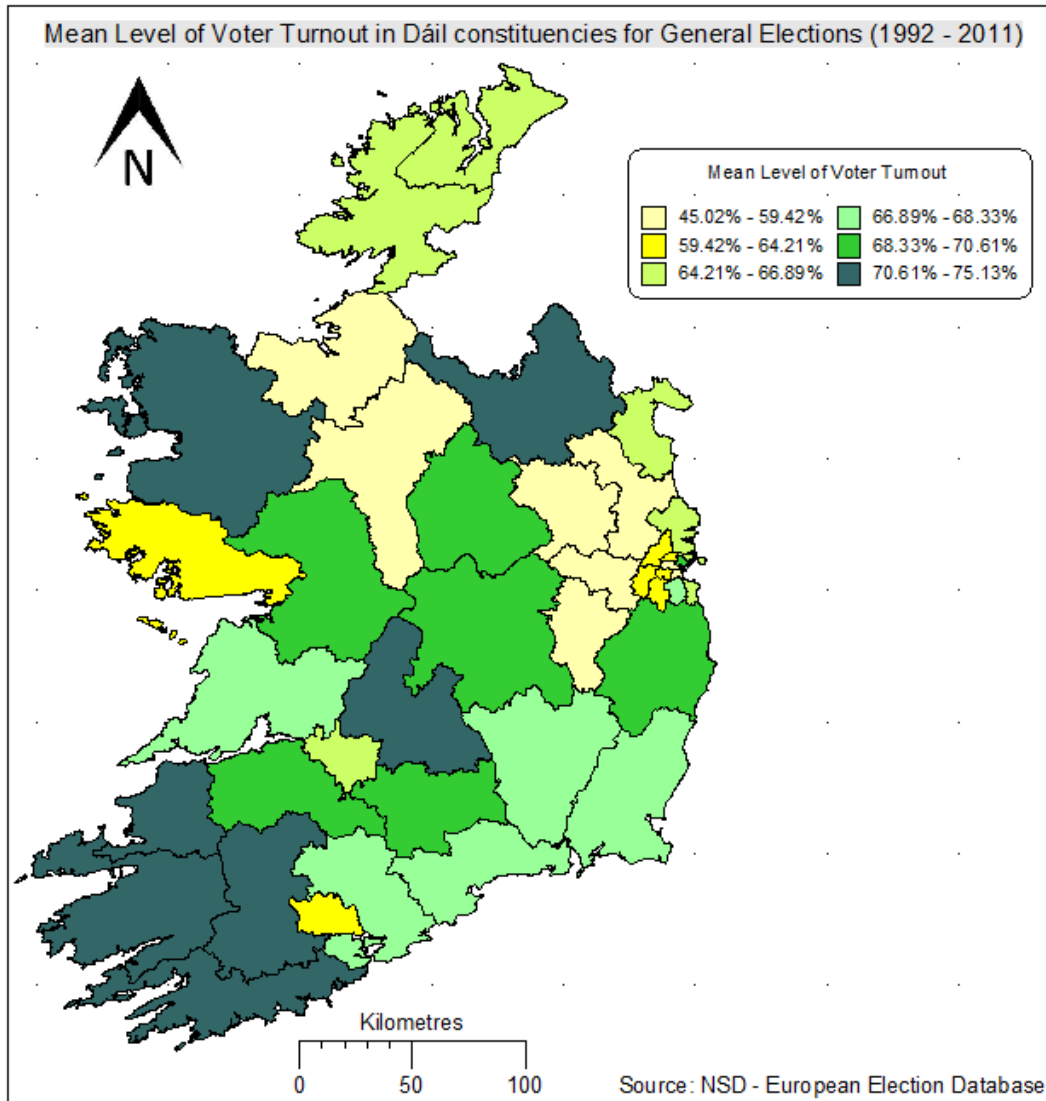
The most recent general / legislative election for public representatives (Teachtaí Dála) was held in 2011, with an overall voter turnout of 70%. These turnout figures can be broken down into the different Dáil constituencies. The voter turnout figure for 2011 is just below that of the overall average voter turnout in Irish Parliamentary elections from 1954 of 71.77%. Voter turnout for the Irish Parliamentary elections has generally been steady, however since the 90s and the early 2000s a decline has been seen (**Figure 5.4-1**).

Figure 5.4-1: Voter turnout at Irish General elections from 1954 to 2011 (NSD)



In 2007 voter turnout started to increase again with an overall voter turnout of 67.03%. As can be seen the constituencies with the lower figures of voter turnout are those constituencies containing the major Irish cities (Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick [Waterford city is in mid-figures]) (Map 5.4-1). The constituencies within the Dublin city commuter catchment area also have a low voter turnout. The constituencies that have high voter turnout figures are predominately rural. Therefore, as a result of this we can see an urban/rural disparity in voter turnout at Irish parliamentary/general elections in the Dáil constituencies that is similar to the pattern observed at a more macro scale in respect of European Parliament elections in Ireland.

Map 5.4-1: Mean level of voter turnout in Dáil Constituencies for the General Elections 1992 - 2011 (NSD)



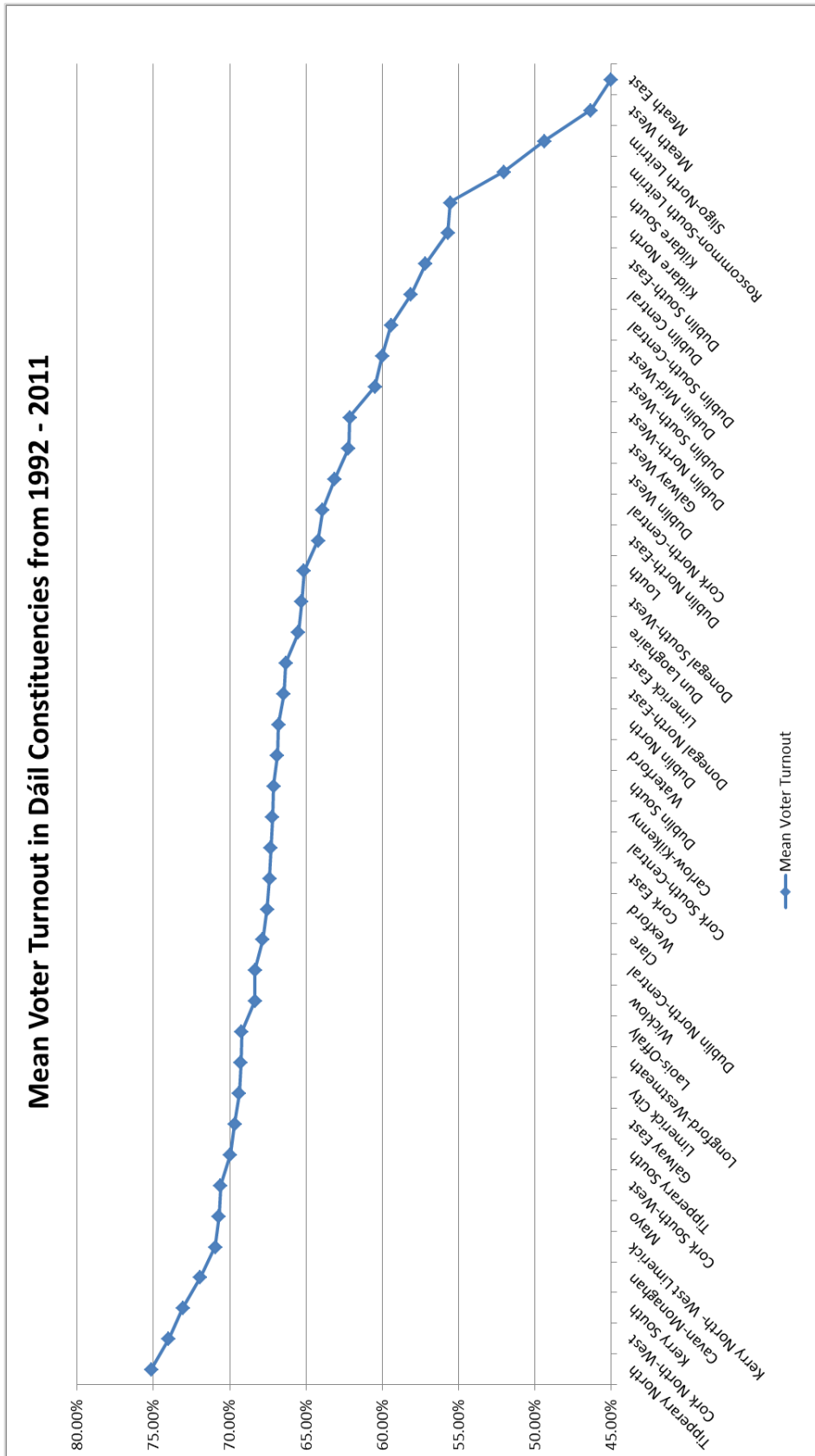
When looking at the constituency breakdown of voter turnout figures from over time it must be noted that some of the Dáil constituency boundaries have been redrawn. **Table 5.4-1** shows the breakdown of voter turnout in the constituencies from the 1992 general election to the most recent general election (2011) and the constituencies that have changed over that period of time.

Table 5.4-1: Dáil Constituency breakdown of voter turnout in general elections from 1992

Constituency	Mean	2011 Constituency	2007 Constituency	2002 Constituency	1997 Constituency	1992
Carlow-Kilkenny	67.20%	70.70% Carlow-Kilkenny	67.01% Carlow-Kilkenny	61.69% Carlow-Kilkenny	67.15% Carlow-Kilkenny	69.46%
Cavan-Monaghan	71.92%	72.70% Cavan-Monaghan	72.14% Cavan-Monaghan	71.59% Cavan-Monaghan	72.46% Cavan-Monaghan	70.73%
Clare	67.85%	70.70% Clare	71.36% Clare	62.60% Clare	66.25% Clare	68.36%
Cork East	67.40%	68.70% Cork East	64.35% Cork East	63.73% Cork East	68.19% Cork East	72.02%
Cork North-Central	63.91%	70.00% Cork North-Central	63.17% Cork North-Central	57.79% Cork North-Central	61.80% Cork North-Central	66.79%
Cork North-West	74.00%	73.50% Cork North-West	73.37% Cork North-West	73.36% Cork North-West	74.63% Cork North-West	75.60%
Cork South-Central	67.32%	71.80% Cork South-Central	65.50% Cork South-Central	62.23% Cork South-Central	65.73% Cork South-Central	71.32%
Cork South-West	70.61%	67.50% Cork South-West	69.68% Cork South-West	70.26% Cork South-West	71.51% Cork South-West	74.12%
Donegal North-East	66.46%	64.90% Donegal North-East	68.01% Donegal North-East	63.39% Donegal North-East	68.38% Donegal North-East	67.63%
Donegal South-West	65.28%	67.50% Donegal South-West	66.21% Donegal South-West	65.95% Donegal South-West	63.90% Donegal South-West	62.84%
Dublin Central	58.13%	61.60% Dublin Central	55.42% Dublin Central	55.51% Dublin Central	56.63% Dublin Central	61.49%
Dublin Mid-West	60.00%	66.60% Dublin Mid-West	61.39% Dublin Mid-West	52.00%		
Dublin North	66.79%	70.70% Dublin North	68.63% Dublin North	60.73% Dublin North	64.85% Dublin North	69.02%
Dublin North-Central	68.33%	73.90% Dublin North-Central	68.78% Dublin North-Central	61.72% Dublin North-Central	65.54% Dublin North-Central	71.72%
Dublin North-East	64.21%	72.20% Dublin North-East	65.55% Dublin North-East	56.87% Dublin North-East	56.87% Dublin North-East	69.57%
Dublin North-West	62.12%	67.50% Dublin North-West	60.42% Dublin North-West	55.71% Dublin North-West	61.62% Dublin North-West	65.36%
Dublin South	67.11%	71.40% Dublin South	68.88% Dublin South	60.11% Dublin South	64.77% Dublin South	70.41%
Dublin South-Central	59.42%	64.50% Dublin South-Central	55.73% Dublin South-Central	51.96% Dublin South-Central	60.35% Dublin South-Central	64.56%
Dublin South-East	57.16%	60.50% Dublin South-East	53.78% Dublin South-East	54.63% Dublin South-East	57.67% Dublin South-East	59.23%
Dublin South-West	60.49%	67.20% Dublin South-West	62.58% Dublin South-West	54.77% Dublin South-West	55.91% Dublin South-West	62.01%
Dublin West	63.11%	68.60% Dublin West	65.50% Dublin West	55.76% Dublin West	60.67% Dublin West	65.00%
Dun Laoghaire	65.50%	71.30% Dun Laoghaire	66.39% Dun Laoghaire	59.08% Dun Laoghaire	62.10% Dun Laoghaire	68.63%
Galway East	69.66%	71.50% Galway East	68.89% Galway East	67.71% Galway East	71.01% Galway East	69.21%
Galway West	62.22%	69.00% Galway West	64.24% Galway West	61.00% Galway West	62.27% Galway West	64.60%
Kerry North- West Limerick	70.95%	72.40% Kerry North	70.53% Kerry North	71.25% Kerry North	70.23% Kerry North	70.36%
Kerry South	73.08%	74.90% Kerry South	73.29% Kerry South	71.52% Kerry South	74.33% Kerry South	71.37%
Kildare North	55.70%	66.20% Kildare North	63.70% Kildare North	55.36% Kildare North	60.49% Kildare	65.51%
Kildare South	55.55%	65.60% Kildare South	61.65% Kildare South	56.78% Kildare South	60.97%	
Laois-Offaly	69.22%	69.60% Laois-Offaly	69.60% Laois-Offaly	66.99% Laois-Offaly	69.48% Laois-Offaly	70.41%
Limerick East	66.32%	69.90% Limerick East	64.79% Limerick East	62.68% Limerick East	65.25% Limerick East	68.98%
Limerick City	69.38%	67.20% Limerick West	69.51% Limerick West	67.09% Limerick West	71.00% Limerick West	72.11%
Longford-Westmeath	69.26%	69.30% Longford-Westmeath	66.06% Longford Roscommon	71.21% Longford Roscommon	74.82% Longford Roscommon	75.45%
Louth	65.12%	70.50% Louth	64.65% Louth	58.91% Louth	64.16% Louth	67.38%
Mayo	70.70%	75.20% Mayo	73.04% Mayo	67.76% Mayo	71.22% Mayo East	68.40%
					Mayo West	69.12%
Meath East	45.02%	66.40% Meath East	64.30% Meath	58.94% Meath	63.54% Meath	66.32%
Meath West	46.34%	64.70% Meath West	72.60%			
Roscommon-South Leitrim	52.02%	79.70% Roscommon-South Leitrim	74.43% Sligo Leitrim	70.24% Sligo Leitrim	70.43% Sligo Leitrim	71.24%
Sligo-North Leitrim	49.36%	70.70% Sligo-North Leitrim	70.12%			
Tipperary North	75.13%	77.20% Tipperary North	78.45% Tipperary North	69.69% Tipperary North	74.76% Tipperary North	75.53%
Tipperary South	69.97%	72.80% Tipperary South	71.59% Tipperary South	66.06% Tipperary South	68.63% Tipperary South	70.78%
Waterford	66.89%	69.20% Waterford	68.03% Waterford	63.91% Waterford	65.14% Waterford	68.18%
			Westmeath	62.40% Westmeath	67.51% Westmeath	67.32%
Wexford	67.55%	68.70% Wexford	67.05% Wexford	64.96% Wexford	67.28% Wexford	69.76%
Wicklow	68.35%	74.80% Wicklow	71.57% Wicklow	61.58% Wicklow	65.54% Wicklow	68.24%

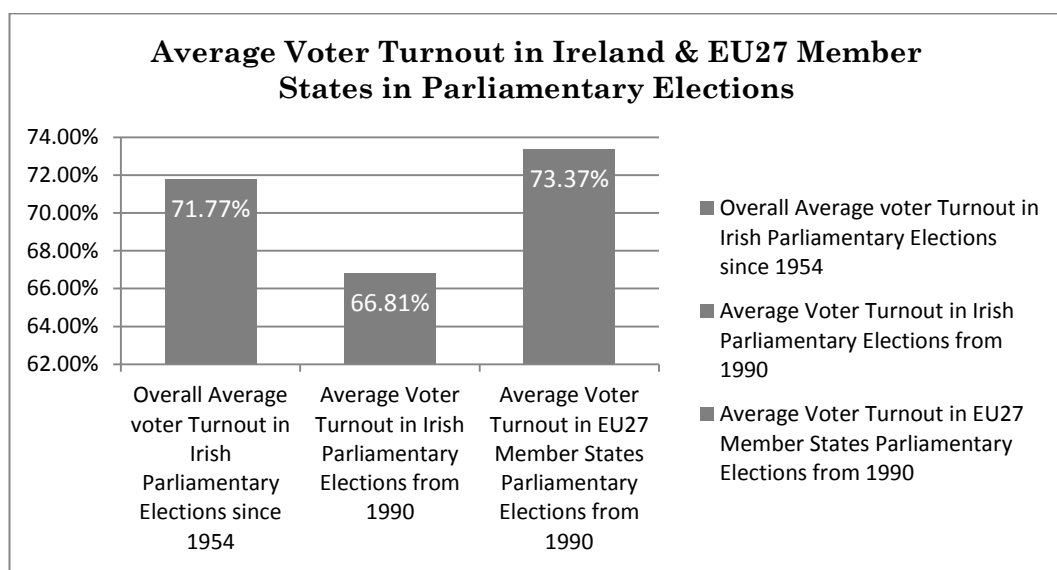
When the data in this table is put into a line graph (Figure 5.4-2) trends can be seen where the same constituencies consistently have a high or low voter turnout throughout the different elections, and here the positive correlation with rurality and location on the western seaboard can be observed. While the 2002 elections had the lowest voter turnout ever recorded in a General Election in Ireland, the trend at constituency level was broadly consistent with the mean level since 1990.

Figure 5.4-2: Mean voter turnout across the Dáil Constituencies from the 1992 General election



With average voter turnout in Irish general elections since 1954 being 71.11% a considerable drop is seen when the average voter turnout is calculated from 1990 onwards. The average voter turnout figure reduces to 66.81%. This figure is significantly lower than that of the average voter turnout for parliamentary elections for the EU27 member states from 1990 of 73.37%, showing a difference of 6.56% (**Figure 5.4-3**).

Figure 5.4-3: Average voter turnout in Ireland & EU27 Member States in Parliamentary elections (NSD)



5.5 Voter turnout in Irish Local elections

The next tier of governance in Ireland is at the local authority level⁸. The elections for all Irish Local Authorities are held on the same day, and the local authority area is divided into local electoral areas (LEA) for these elections as local representatives contest seats in these micro-areas. There are 34 local authorities in Ireland and these are further divided into 143 local electoral areas for the local elections. The most recent local elections were held in 2009 with an overall voter turnout of 60.75% and from 1991 this figure had remained steady (**Table 5.5-1**), albeit considerably below the level for Dáil elections.

⁸ Regional authorities are not directly elected.

Table 5.5-1: Voter turnout at local elections in Ireland (DECLG)

Year of Local Elections	1991	1999	2004	2009
Overall Voter Turnout	60.64%	53.47%	60.68%	60.75%

When investigating voter turnout at the local electoral area level for the local elections (1999 – 2009), a pattern can be seen (**Map 5.5-1**). This spatial pattern is not too dissimilar to the pattern seen in voter turnout figures for General elections. The cities tend to have a lower voter turnout than that seen in the predominately rural areas and the Dublin City commuter catchment area also performs poorly for voter turnout in the local elections. Therefore, as a result of this we can see an urban/rural disparity in voter turnout at Irish local elections in the local electoral areas.

Map 5.5-1: Mean level of voter turnout in local elections (1999 – 2009)

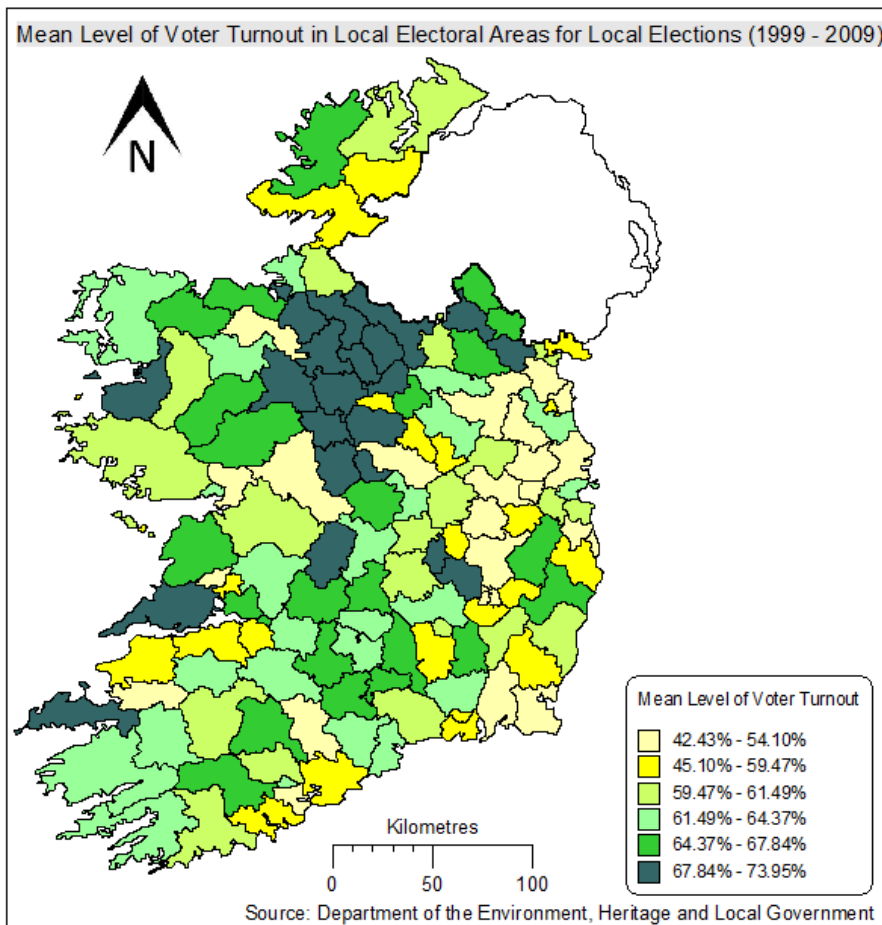
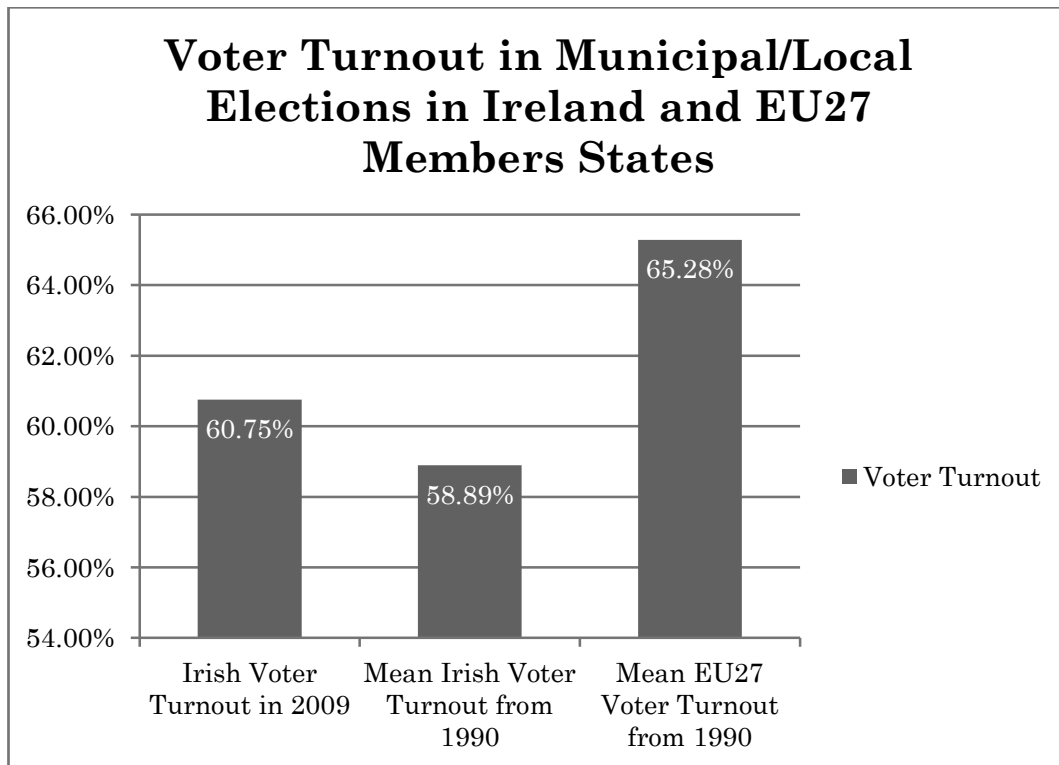


Figure 5.5-1: Voter turnout in Ireland & EU27 Member States in Municipal/Local elections (DECLG; Returning Officers of Municipality)

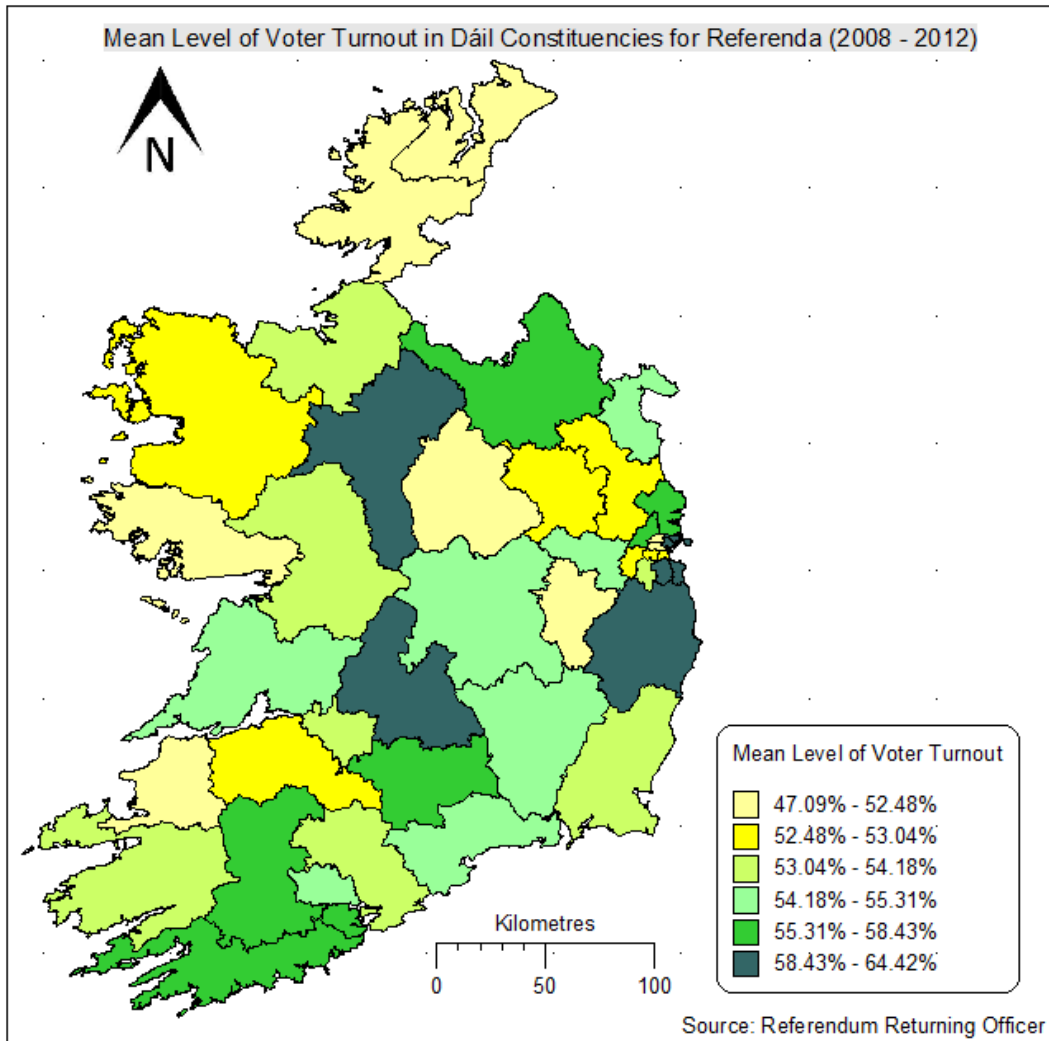


Voter turnout in Ireland for local/municipal elections is lower than that of local/municipal elections held in the EU27 members. When compared to the voter turnout in EU27 member states Ireland performs lower than the EU average of 65.28%, with an average voter turnout of 58.89% in Irish Local elections since 1990 (**Figure 5.5-1**).

5.6 Voter turnout in Irish Referenda

Under Bunreacht na hÉireann (Constitution of Ireland) the constitution can only be changed by popular approval by citizens. Therefore, referenda (plebiscites) are held in Ireland where a government wishes to put a proposal to the electorate on an amendment to the Irish Constitution. The most recent referendum was held in 2012 on the Thirtieth Amendment of the Constitution (Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union) Bill 2012.

Map 5.6-1: Mean level of voter turnout for referenda (2008 – 2012)



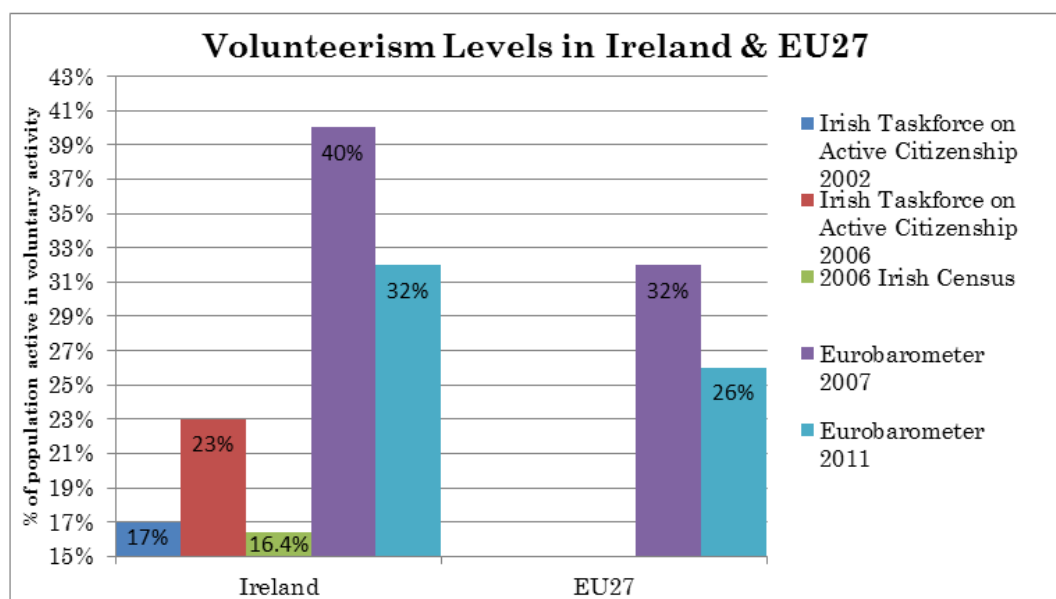
Average voter turnout in Irish Referenda is 52.91% (1937 – 2012), and voter turnout for the most recent referenda (2008 – 2012) has been mapped out (**Map 5.5-2**), where a slightly different pattern emerges as the city perform better, than the other types of lections. Voter turnout in referenda is mainly linked with the topic of the constitutional change being put forward, and is diversified due to the referenda dealing with a very diverse range of issues. Referenda linked to religious or moral issues tend to have a higher voter turnout in the past. Turnout in EU related referenda has varied considerably from 70% voter turnout for the referendum on accession into the EEC to

49.5% voter turnout for the first referendum on the Treaty of Nice in 2001.

5.7 Spatial pattern of Volunteerism across Ireland

Statistics for people participating in voluntary activity in Ireland are varied and sparse. The most recent and comprehensive statistics available on participation in voluntary activity was gained from the 2006 Irish Census, where there was a dedicated question on voluntary activity. In 2006 the national average for people over the age of 15 who participated in one or more voluntary activity was 16.4%. This figure differs from the findings of survey work – also undertaken in 2006 – by the Irish Taskforce on Active Citizenship (ITAC) showed that 23% of the Irish population was a regularly active volunteer an increase from 16% in 2002. These figures are significantly lower than the figure given in the Eurobarometer survey, which was conducted the following year in 2007, of 40%. However, this figure falls to 32% in the Eurobarometer undertaken in 2011, but is still higher than the reported Irish statistics (**Figure 5.7-1**).

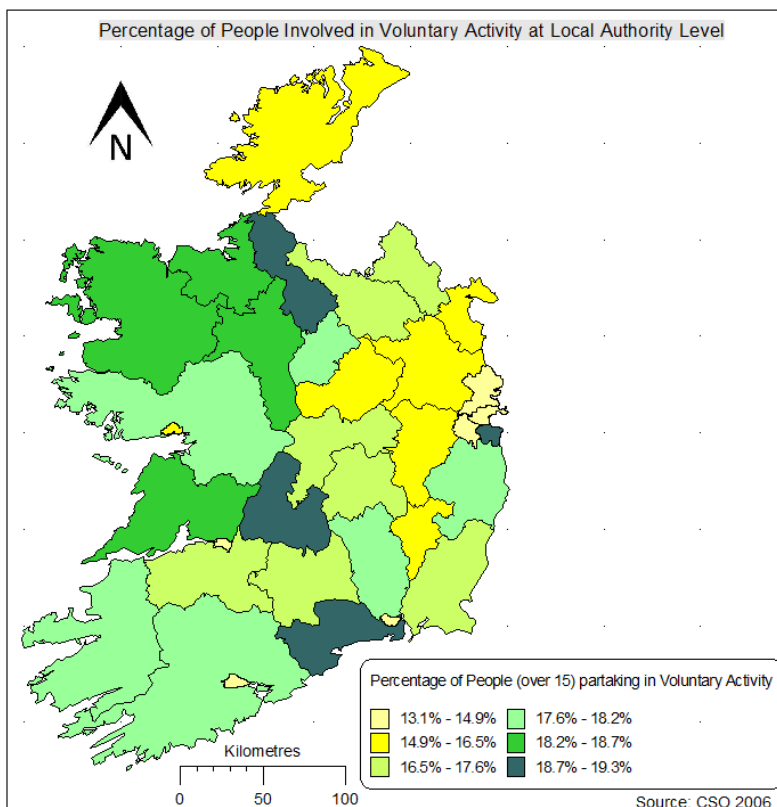
Figure 5.7-1: Volunteerism level in Ireland & EU (ITAC; CSO; Eurobarometer 66.3; Eurobarometer 75.2)



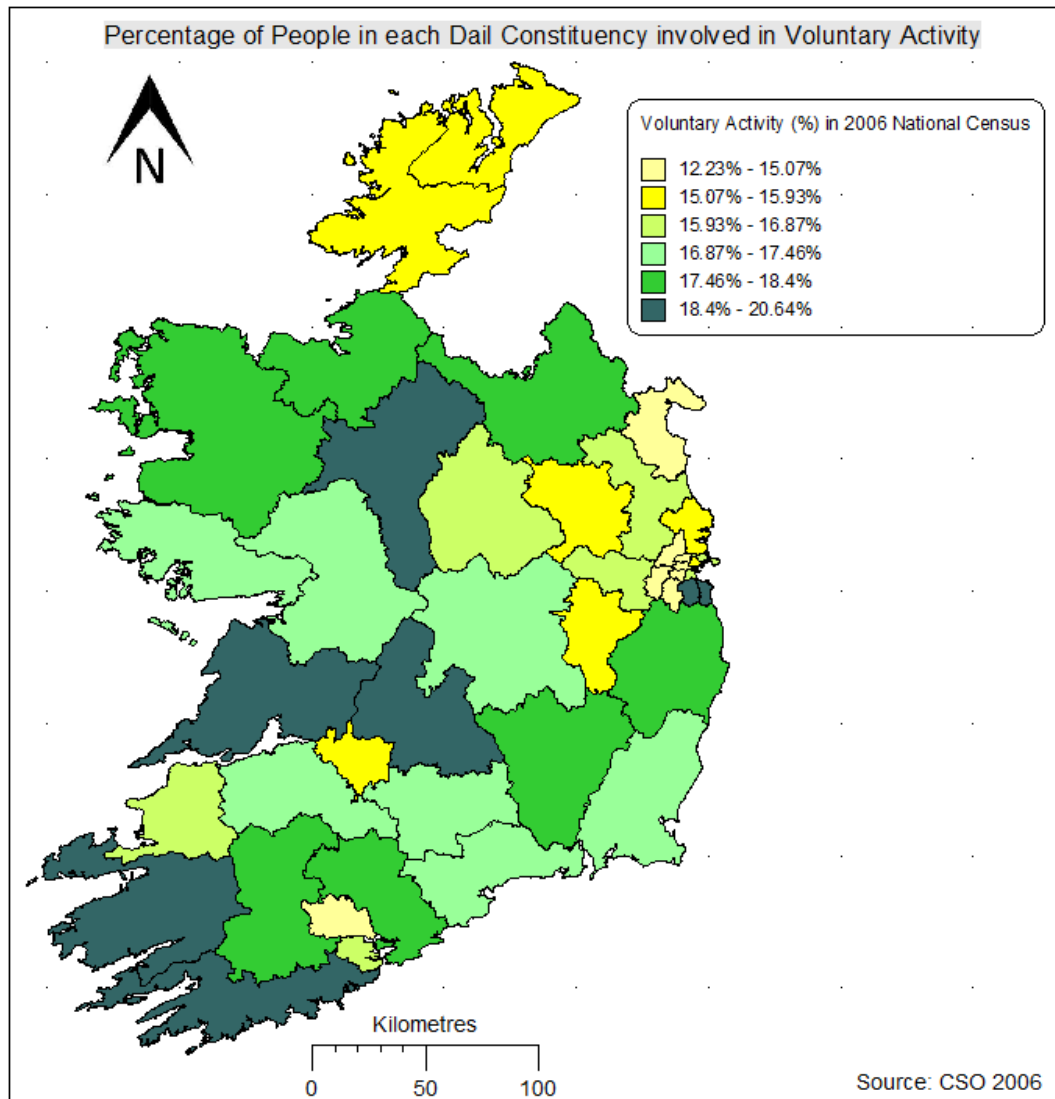
The 2006 Census of Population stated that 16.4% of the Irish population aged 15 and over (over 553,000 people) reported being involved in voluntary activity in the four weeks previous to the Census. The 45-49 age cohort had the highest participation rate in voluntary activities (23.3%) while almost one in four of all voluntary workers were in their forties. The activity with the highest recorded number of volunteers was social or charitable work (193,000 persons) followed by sporting activities (180,000) (CSO, 2006).

The 2006 Irish Census voluntary activity data was mapped at various geographic levels in order to ascertain if certain geographical patterns exist. At the local authority level (**Map 5.7-1**) an East-West divide can be seen showing that the West of Ireland has a higher percentage of people involved in voluntary activity, the East has a lower percentage with the major Irish cities and the Dublin City commuter catchment area showing the lowest percentages.

Map 5.7-1: Map showing 2006 voluntary activity levels in Local Authorities (CSO)



Map 5.7-2: Map showing 2006 voluntary activity levels in Dáil Constituencies (CSO)

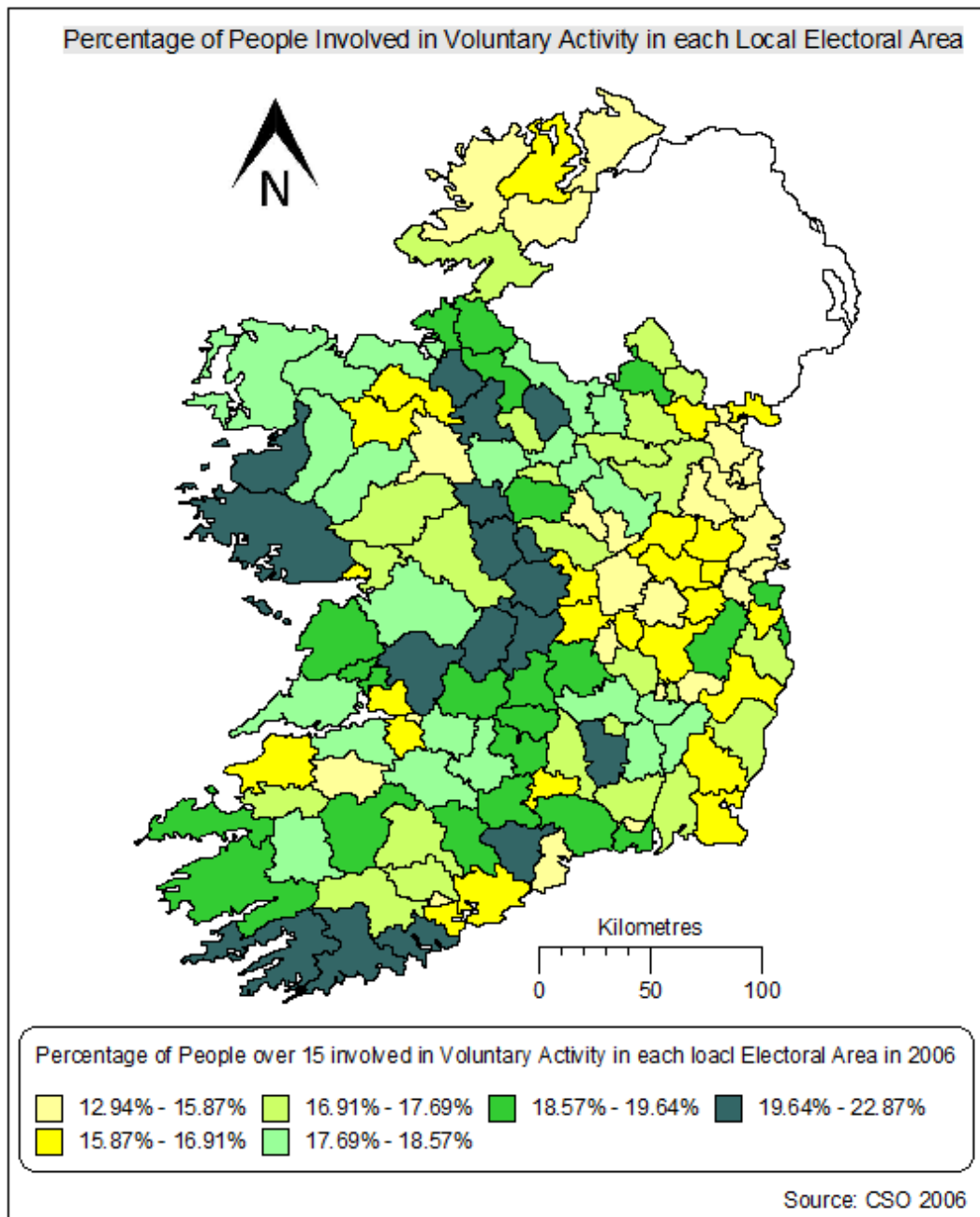


At the geographic level of the Dáil Constituencies (**Map 5.7-2**) a similar pattern can be seen, with the urban centres/hinterlands and the Dublin City commuter catchment area scoring lower on the percentage of people, over 15, participating in voluntary activities in each of the constituencies.

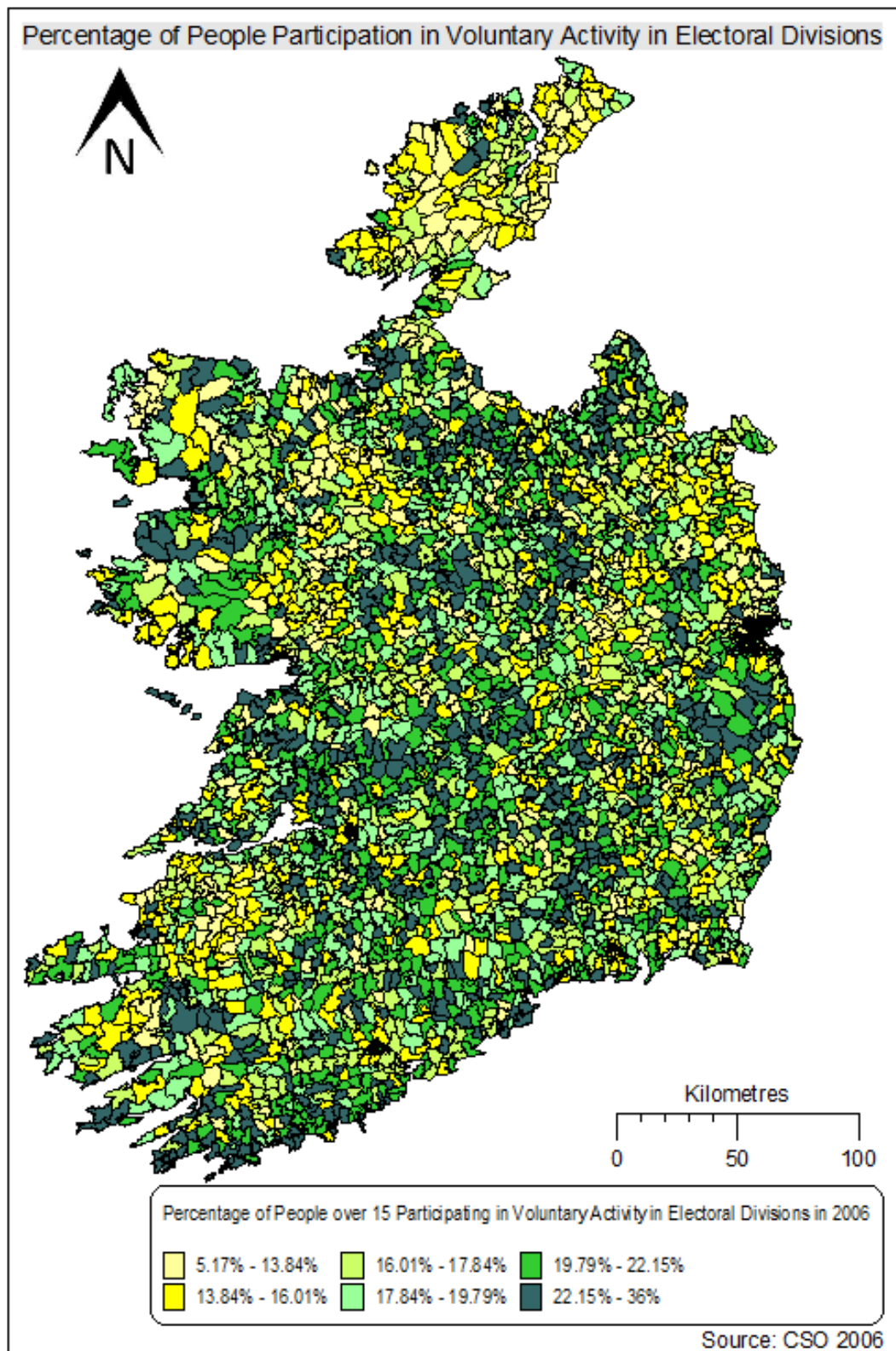
At the level of Local Electoral Areas (**Map 5.7-3**) this pattern becomes more evident with Local Electoral Areas containing urban centres having a lower percentage of people partaking in voluntary activity. At

the lowest geographical level of Electoral Divisions (**Map 5.7-4**) this pattern persists.

Map 5.7-3: Map showing 2006 voluntary activity levels in Local Electoral Areas (CSO)



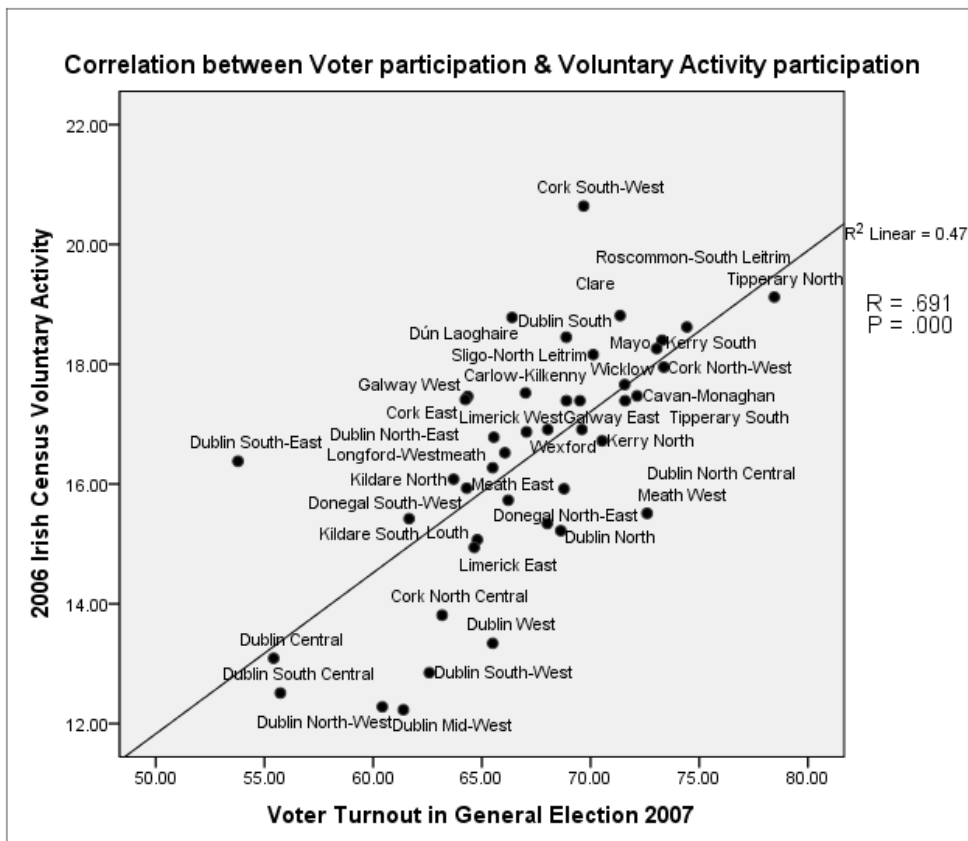
Map 5.7-4: Map showing 2006 voluntary activity levels in Electoral Divisions (CSO)



A statistical test was undertaken to investigate any possible correlation between the percentage of people in the 2006 Irish Census who volunteered and the percentage of people who voted at the 2007 Irish General Election at the level of the Dáil Constituency. This was done as the 2007 General Election was the election held closest to 2006 when the Census was undertaken, and as a result will provide a more accurate picture if participation in voting and participation in voluntary activity are linked. The 2006 Irish Census data was chosen as this is the most recent Irish-wide data available.

There is a strong correlation (Pearson's $R = .691$; $P < .001$) between voter turnout and voluntary activity participation. This correlation can be further seen in the scatter plot (Figure 5.7-2), in which a positive linear pattern can be observed.

Figure 5.7-2: Correlation between voter participation & voluntary activity participation (NSD; CSO)



Positive correlations also exist between levels of voluntary activity and the mean level of voter turnout in the Dáil constituencies for general elections (1992 – 2011) ($R = .362$; $P < .05$), and recent referenda (2008 – 2012) ($R = .382$; $P < .05$).

A further statistical test was undertaken to investigate any possible correlation between the percentage of people in the 2006 Irish Census who volunteered and the percentage of people who voted at the 2004 Irish Local Elections at the level of the Local Electoral Area. This was done as the 2004 Local Election was the election held closest to 2006 when the Census was undertaken, and as a result will provide a more accurate picture if participation in voting and participation in voluntary activity are further linked at the level of the local electoral area. The result was a correlation of $R = .455$ with a 95% significance. When the same test was run for the mean level of voter turnout at local elections (1999 – 2009) and the 2006 voluntary activity levels a positive correlation was found ($R = .390$; $P < .05$).

5.8 Conclusion

This chapter has presented the results gained from the collection, analysis and mapping of the data from secondary data sources pertaining to the factors that influence civil society participation and volunteerism in Ireland. Various factors were investigated in order to ascertain their influence on civil society and voluntary participation. These factors included: voter turnout at European Constituency level for the 2009 European Parliament elections; Presidential elections; general elections; local elections; and referenda.

When the data was analysed correlations were discovered between indicators of representative and participative democracy, linking in with the literature showing that civic participation is linked to voter participation. This is consistent with the EU27 Member States results

which goes on to show how this links into to a more effective government, resulting in higher levels of trust in government.

When the data were mapped, spatial patterns were discovered that further linked into the research, as a 'Rural-Urban' high-low voter turnout and volunteerism continuum was seen.

From this meso analysis the micro data analysis and mapping for the selected case study locations (Limerick City and North Tipperary) can be investigated looking at the factors influencing voter turnout and volunteerism levels and their spatial patterns.

Chapter 6: The Civil Society Landscape of Limerick City

6.1 Introduction: The Geography & Demography of Limerick City

Limerick City is located at the head of the Shannon estuary and sprawls over the meanders and islands of the river Shannon. It covers an area of 33.83 square kilometres. Limerick is the second-largest city in the province of Munster, after Cork City. It is the regional capital and the economic core of the Mid-Western Region (which has a population of over 364,028 (CSO, 2006)), which includes the local authorities of Limerick City, Limerick County, Clare County and Tipperary North County.

The area within the boundary of Limerick City is under the administrative control of Limerick City Council (Limerick City Council has 17 directly elected representatives from the three local electoral areas of Limerick North, Limerick East and Limerick South.) and in 2006 the population within this boundary was over 52,539 with another 34,197 (CSO, 2006) living in the suburbs (the suburbs of Limerick City, or the Limerick urban area, reach beyond the boundaries of Limerick City Council and fall within the administrative area of Limerick County Council and Clare County Council). As a result of local government reforms, Limerick City and County Councils are currently undergoing a merger, and this process will be finalised with the local government elections of 2014. In 2008, the boundary of Limerick City was extended to include the Limerick North Rural electoral division of Limerick County (comprising of Caherdavin, Coonagh, and parts of Moyross). This increased the population of Limerick City by 7,251 making Limerick City the third largest city in the Republic of Ireland, after Dublin City and Cork City. The rate of

population increase in Limerick (both city and county) has tended to lag behind that of the State (**Table 6.1-1**).

Table 6.1-1: Population change in Limerick from 1991 Census to 2011 Census (CSO)

Census Year		1991	1996	2002	2006	2011
Limerick	Population	161,956	165,042	175,304	184,055	191,809
	Population Change		+1.9%	+6.2%	+5.0%	+4.2%

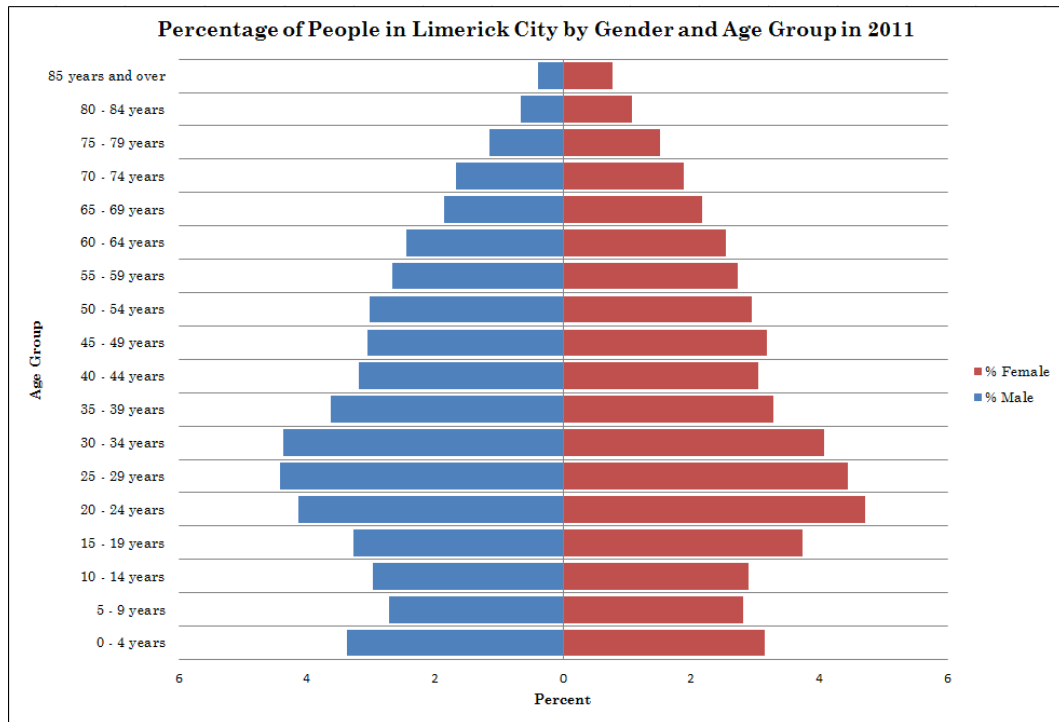
Moreover, when broken down into city and county there is a stark contrast between population trends with a sharp decline in population between the National Censuses of Population found in Limerick City, even with the boundary extension, and a large increase in population in Limerick County (**Table 6.1-2**).

Table 6.1-2: Population change in limerick between 2006 Census & 2011 Census (CSO)

Census Year		2006	2011
Limerick	Population	184,055	191,809
	Population Change		+4.2%
Limerick City	Population	59,790	57,106
	Population Change		-4.5%
Limerick County	Population	124,265	134,703
	Population Change		+8.4%

The age profile of Limerick City reflected the national pattern in 2006 with just over 37% of the population within aged under 25 years, and 11% aged 65 or over (CSO, 2006) [**Figure 6.1-1**]. Some areas within Limerick City have high youth dependency ratios and others have high elderly dependency ratios.

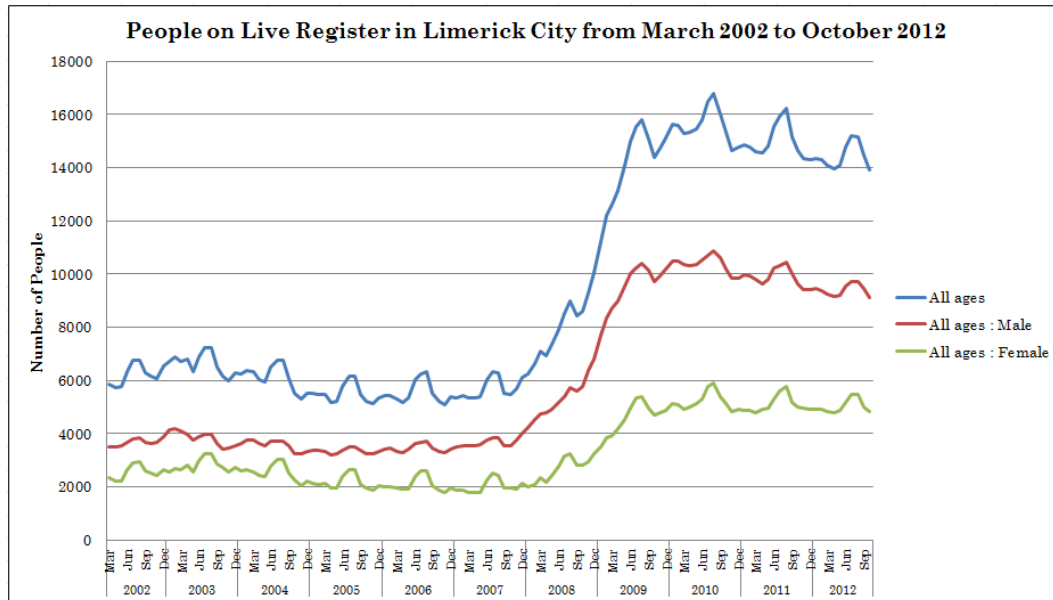
Figure 6.1-1: 2011 Population in Limerick City by Gender & Age Group (CSO)



In 2006 the unemployment rate in Limerick City was considerably higher than the national average with an unemployment rate of 15.7% for males, and 12.6% for females, compared to the then national rate of 8.8% and 8.1% for males and females respectively. Figures (CSO, 2006) show that women in Limerick City were less likely to be at work but were also less likely to be looking after home/family than the national average, men were also less likely to be at work and more likely to be unemployed. Unfortunately, since the 2006 National Census of Population, the economic environment has changed considerably across the country, with the current economic global recession. In particular, with the collapse of the construction industry, and the closure of the manufacturing operations of DELL and its associated industries in 2009-2010 in Limerick, unemployment has risen considerably. Data from the Census Statistics Office show that the number of people on the live register in Limerick City increased by

136% between January 2008 and December 2010 (CSO, 2010) [Figure 6.1-2].

Figure 6.1-2: People on Live Register in Limerick City (CSO)



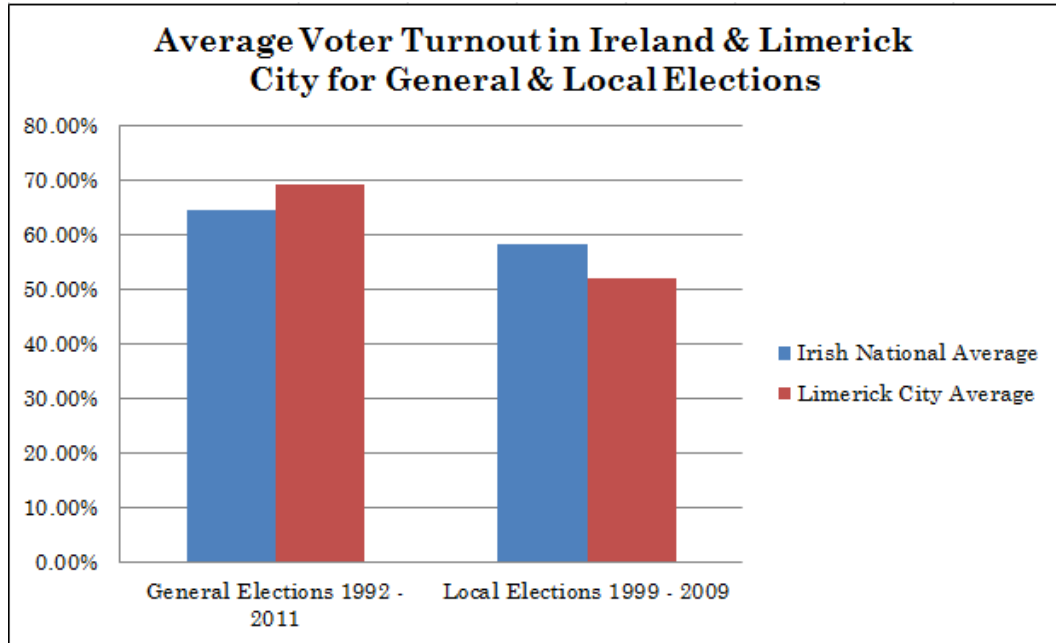
This demographic profile of Limerick City influences the distribution and participation in voting and voluntary activity within the city.

6.2 Voter Participation in Limerick City

Average voter participation in general elections in Limerick City between the years 1992 and 2011 has been 69.38% which is above the Irish national average of 64.47% (Figure 6.2-1), 67.20% of people registered to vote in Limerick City having voted in the most recent general election in 2011.

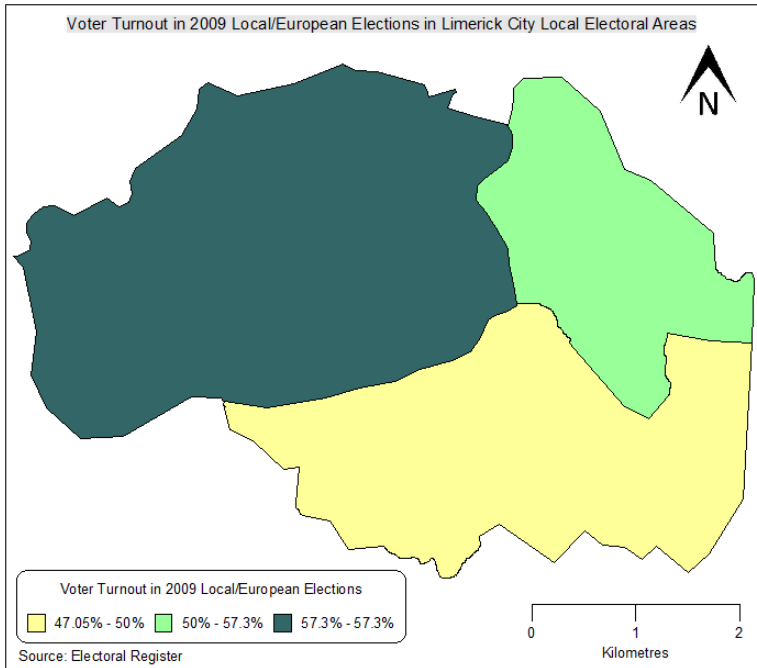
Average voter turnout in Limerick City drops for local elections with an average voter participation of 52.06% between the years 1999 and 2009, this figure falls below the national average of 58.30% for the same time period (Figure 6.2-1). When looking at voter turnout for the most recent local election in 2009, the Irish National average of 60.75% again is higher than Limerick City with a turnout of 50.36%.

Figure 6.2-1: Average Voter Turnout in Ireland & Limerick City for General & Local Elections (NSD, DEHLG)

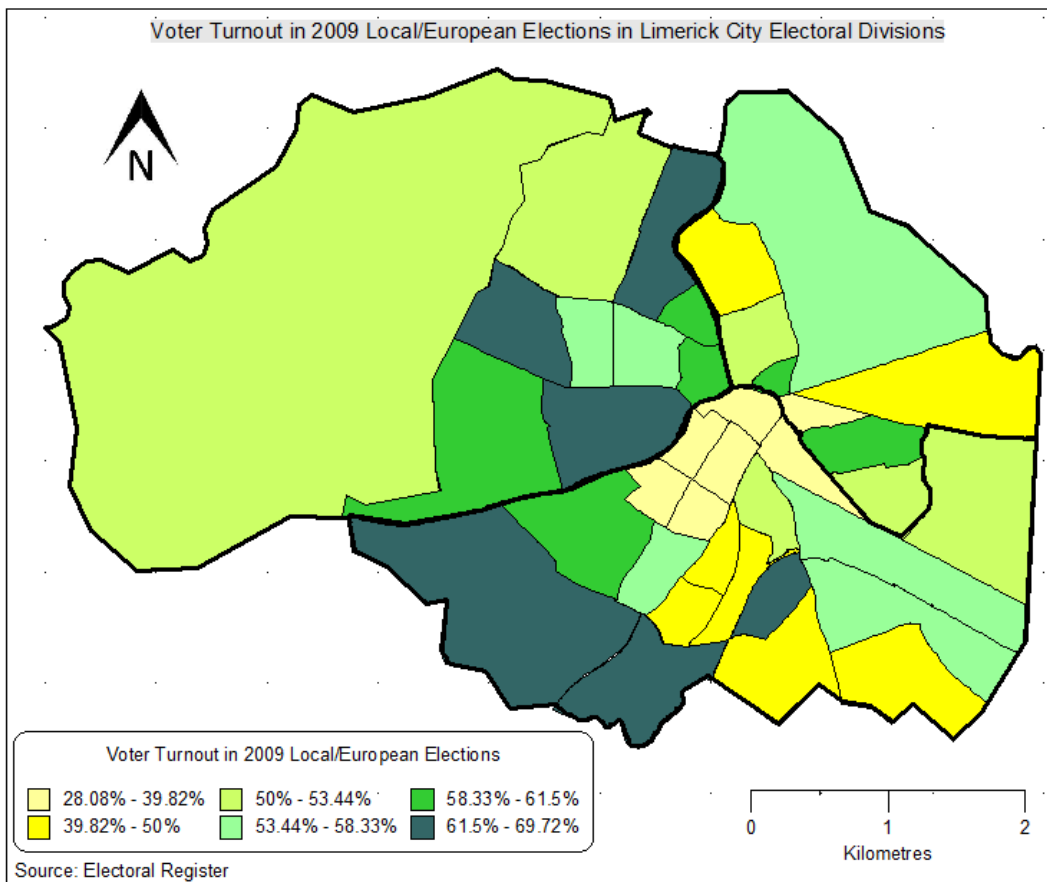


Limerick City is divided into 3 Local Electoral Areas (LEAs) for the purpose of electing members of the City Council and 38 Electoral Divisions (EDs) for statistical purposes, and voter turnout figures have been calculated for these micro-geographies units using the electoral register and have been mapped for the 2009 Local/European elections (Map 6.2-1; Map 6.2-2).

Map 6.2-1: Voter Turnout in the 2009 Local/European Elections in Limerick City Local Electoral Areas (Checked/Marked Electoral Register for 2009 Local Elections)

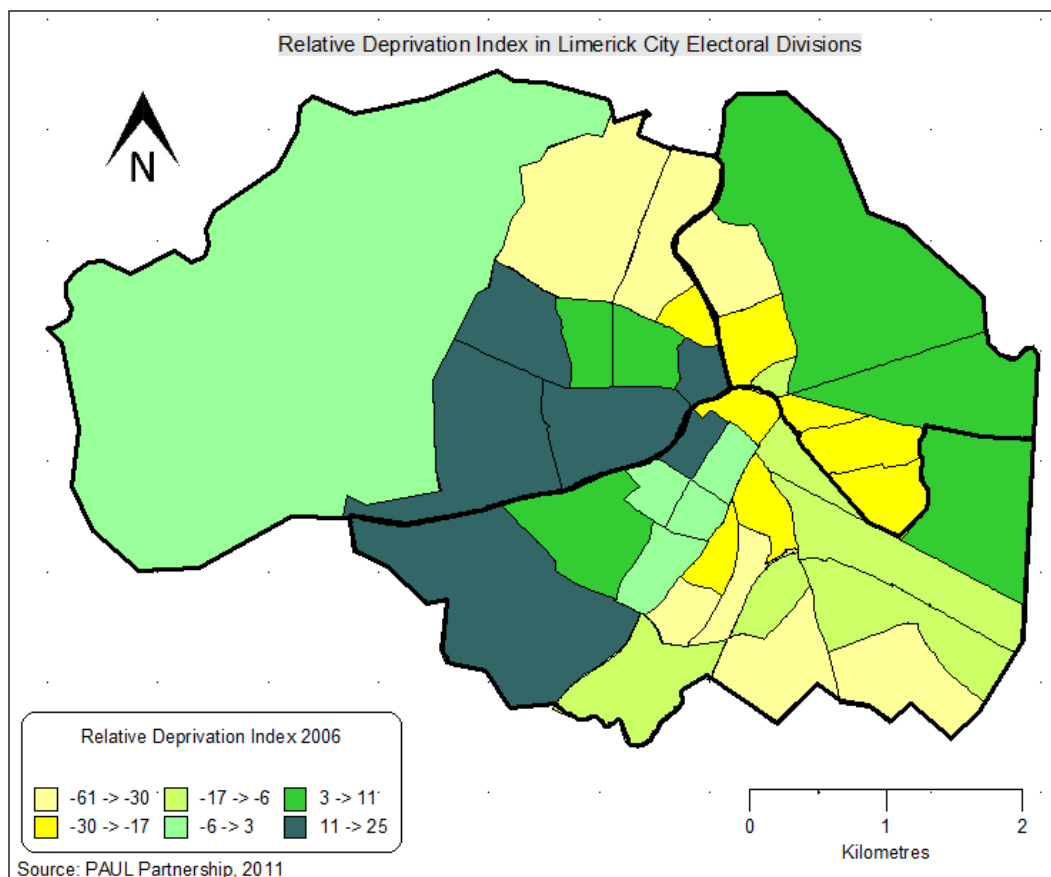


Map 6.2-2: Voter Turnout in the 2009 Local/European Elections in Limerick City Electoral Divisions (Checked/Marked Electoral Register for 2009 Local Elections)



As can be seen from these maps (**Map 6.2-1**; **Map 6.2-2**) the electoral Divisions located in the city centre have the lowest figures for voter turnout in the 2009 Local/European elections. These EDs cover the majority of the city centre community with the exception of Market within which can be found some of the Garryowen community. This low voter turnout may be associated with the high levels of residential mobility of the city centre community with the EDs Shannon A and Dock A showing high levels of population change in 2002 of 40.7% and 42%. Due to such a high mobility rate people may be unable to identify with the community and local representatives dealing with local issues.

Map 6.2-3: Relative Deprivation Index in Limerick City Electoral Divisions in 2006 (PAUL Partnership, 2011; Haase, 2009)



Another pattern that can be seen emerging from the map on voter participation levels in Limerick City is that the majority of areas that score below 1 on the relative deprivation index⁹ (Haase, 2009) in 2006 have lower levels of voter turnout (Pearson's $R=.367$, $P<.05$) (**Map 6.2-3**). By accounting for these component variables of the relative deprivation index it can be hypothesised that low voter turnout can be a result of voter disengagement and disillusionment with local representatives and their ability to tackle local level issues. In their research on the evaluation of social capital in Limerick City Humphreys and Dineen (2006) reported that the level of trust for communities in institutions was lowest for the local authority throughout the city, with the more disadvantaged communities scoring the local authority lowest for trust. Disadvantaged communities also scored low on trust for social welfare, health services, probations services and the courts.

When specifically dealing with the local governance of the local council Humphreys and Dineen noted that...

"...a substantial proportion of residents (46%) in the city and environs (across all neighbourhoods) agree that the local council (City Council in the case of King's Island, Moyross and Inner City and Dock area and County Council in the case of Castletroy/Monaleen) 'doesn't care about the neighbourhood'. Attitudes across all neighbourhoods are more negative in relation to information provision to residents with 67 per cent agreeing 'the council doesn't keep residents in this neighbourhood informed' and are most negative about the extent to which local councils involve residents in decision-making with 71 per cent disagreeing with the statement that 'the council involves residents in decision-making'."

(2006:15)

⁹ The relative deprivation score is calculated using demographic decline, social class disadvantage and labour market deprivation.

This ties in with the statistical relationships found in voter turnout levels with the disadvantaged/affluent category of an area and also with regeneration designation of an area, voter turnout generally increases as the affluence of an area increases (Pearson's $R=.338$; $P=<.05$), and voter turnout is generally higher in areas not designated for regeneration.

However, there are some EDs that while although they have a low deprivation score, they have a high voter turnout, and this can be due to the high levels of civic engagement that has been witnessed within these communities as Humphreys & Dineen (2006) noted the disadvantaged communities scoring highest with interest in civic affairs and civic participation, including turning out to vote in local and general elections. This may also be attributed to the proximity of the electorate to particular candidates, as some candidates may have a higher political mobility, and also political mobilisation can reflect particularly strong efforts by individual political parties within an area (Kavanagh et al., 2004).

6.3 The Community & Voluntary Sector in Limerick City

In order to manage the extensive community and voluntary sector and infrastructure that exist in Limerick City a community and voluntary forum was set up. The formation of such forum was instigated at national level to facilitate the inclusion of representatives on the City Development Board (CBD) from the community and voluntary sector. The forum also enables representatives to be selected to sit on Limerick City Council Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), Limerick City Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) Working Group, Limerick City Childcare Committee and the PAUL Partnership.

The Forum is made up of issue-based and geographically-based networks of voluntary groups. These networks nominate members

onto the Forum committee, the executive body, and provide support to Forum representatives. The forum is facilitated by a part-time development whose main focus is the promotion of the Forum, fostering active participation, increasing membership (LCDB, 2005).

In addition to the Community and Voluntary Forum, there are other structures in place to improve participation, empowerment and collective decision making by the communities in Limerick City.

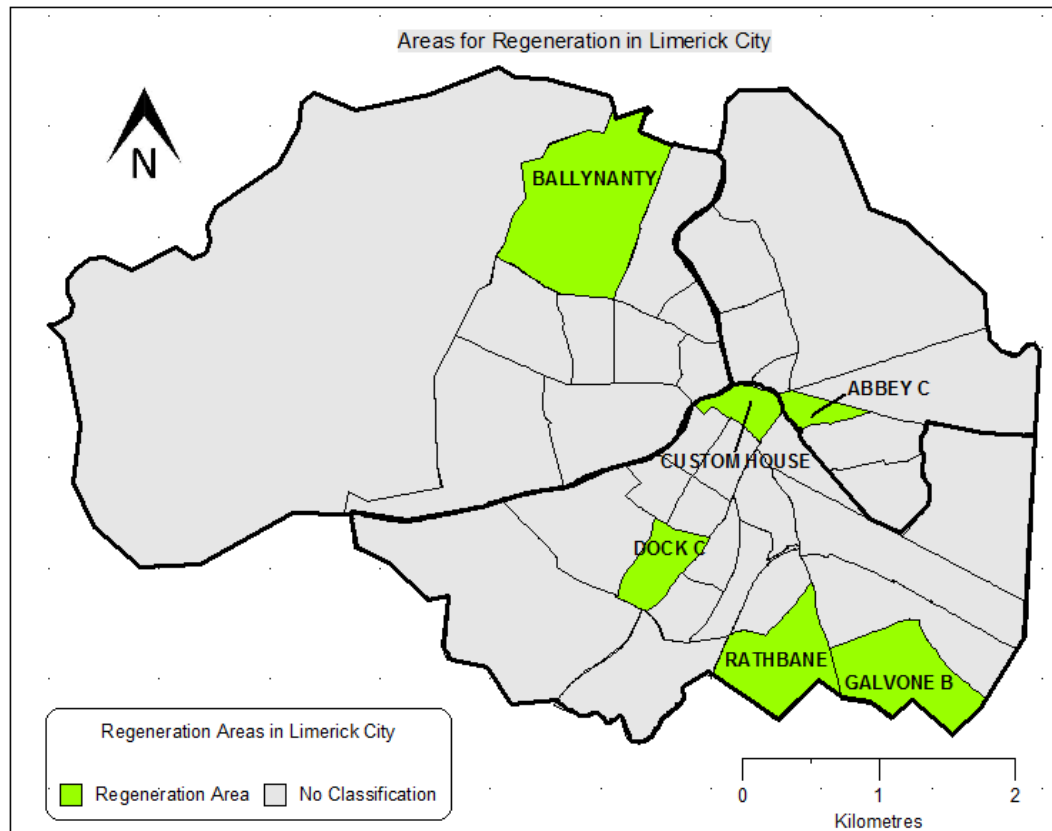
There are geographically-based community organisations that are owned by the community and are managed through local volunteer Boards of Management to provide a range of local services, supports, and facilities for individuals and groups. The community organisations that are part of the geographically-based forum network are:

- Moyross Community Enterprise Centre Ltd
- Moyross Development Company
- St. Munchin's Community Development Ltd
- St. Munchin's Community Enterprise Centre Ltd
- St. Mary's AID
- Northside Learning Hub
- Our Lady of Lourdes Community Services Group
- Southill Community Services Board
- Southill Development Co-op Society Ltd
- Southill Area Centre
- Southill Outreach
- St. Saviours Community Group
- Garryowen Community Committee
- Our Lady Queen of Peace Community Development Project

Following on from the micro geography of these geographically-based community organisations there are community umbrella groups. The main role of these groups is to co-ordinate the community and voluntary organisations that operate within their geographical area. There are 5 community umbrella groups based in Limerick City, these groups are located in the communities of Moyross, St. Munchin's, St. Mary's, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Southill. The groups provide a

structure for mediation for these community and voluntary groups and through the structure of these groups nomination of area-based community representatives to the various city-wide decision-making structures in Limerick City is achieved.

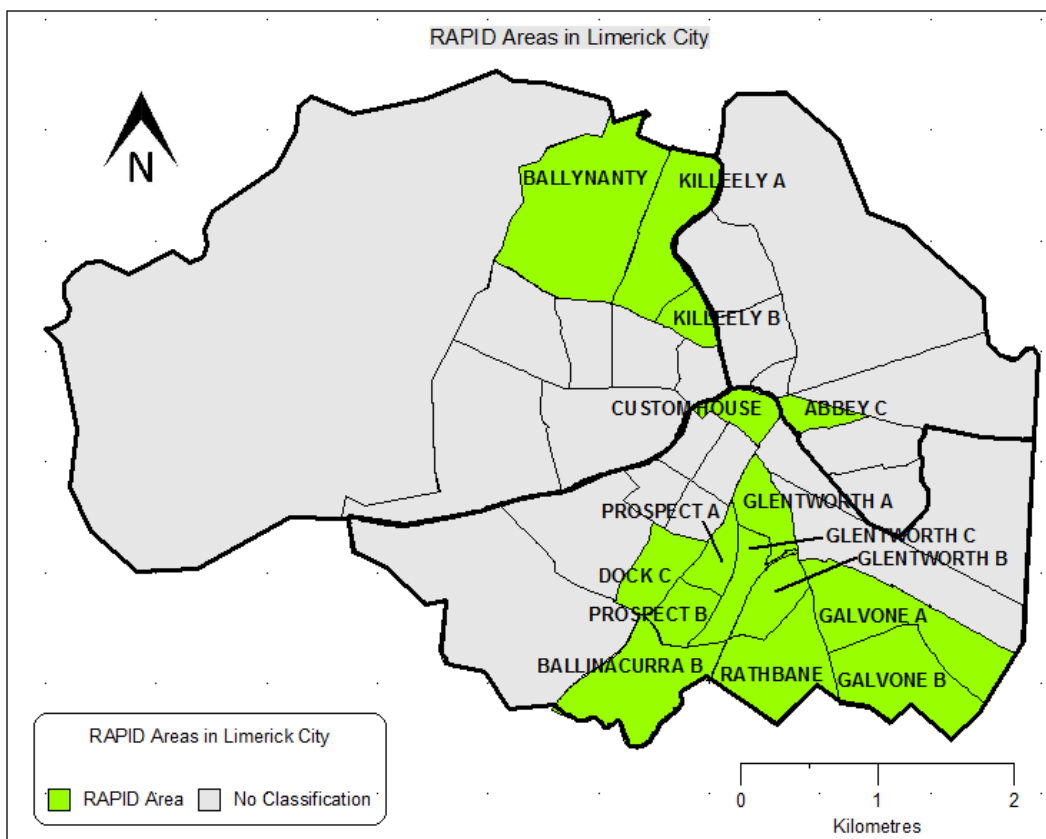
Map 6.3-1: Areas for Regeneration in Limerick City



Limerick City has designated different regeneration areas, these areas are Moyross, St. Mary's Park, Southill, and Ballinacurra Weston (**Map 6.3-1**). As a result of the designation of regeneration areas, Limerick regeneration area committees were developed. Each regeneration area has an area committee comprising of representatives of the local community, the Regeneration Agency Board, and other key stakeholders. These committees provide an arena for issues specific to individual regeneration housing estates to be addressed. To further enable/improve community engagement with the regeneration process

the Limerick Regeneration Community Consultative Forum was established. This forum is comprised of representatives from each of the regeneration areas. The Forum provides the structure for communication between representatives of regeneration communities and the Regeneration Board. It also facilitates communication between each individual regeneration area. The Forum is facilitated by the PAUL Partnership.

Map 6.3-2: RAPID Areas in Limerick City



Outside of the regeneration areas, there are other communities within Limerick City that score low on the relative deprivation score. These areas have been designated RAPID¹⁰ areas and include Moyross,

¹⁰ The RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development) Programme is a Government initiative, which targets 51 of the most disadvantaged areas in Ireland by focusing State resources available under the National Development Plan. Areas are designated as disadvantaged by reference to a range of socio-economic criteria including the levels of early school leaving; the proportion of

Ballynanty, Kileely, King's Island, Watergate, Southill, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, and St. Saviour's Parish (**Map 6.3-2**). Due to these areas being identified as RAPID areas community and voluntary infrastructure has developed as an answer to issues faced by the communities. The structure of the RAPID programme is built on the principle of agency and community partnership and a multi-agency targeted response. This principle of partnership has been devised to give communities a strong input into the plan for their own areas, tapping into the endogenous/grassroots tradition in these communities.

There are estate management projects across Limerick City and these are based in Moyross, St. Munchin's, St. Mary's, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Southill. These projects provide a structure for residents to participate in the development of their local authority housing estates. Coupled with this there are 2 Family Resource Centres (FRCs) based in Limerick City – St. Munchin's FRC based on the north side of the city, and Southill FRC based on the south side of the city. These centres promote community development as they aim to combat disadvantage by providing supports to families experiencing or at risk of social exclusion. Along with these measures the Limerick City Community Development Project (CDP) was formed in 2011 following the unification of 6 local community development projects. Funded through the Local and Community Development Programme, the CDP works to improve the social inclusion of disadvantaged groups in the targeted communities across the city – Moyross, St. Munchin's, St. Mary's, Our Lady of Lourdes, and Southill. Local residents' committees are also active within the targeted communities. These committees provide a structure for local residents to have a say in the

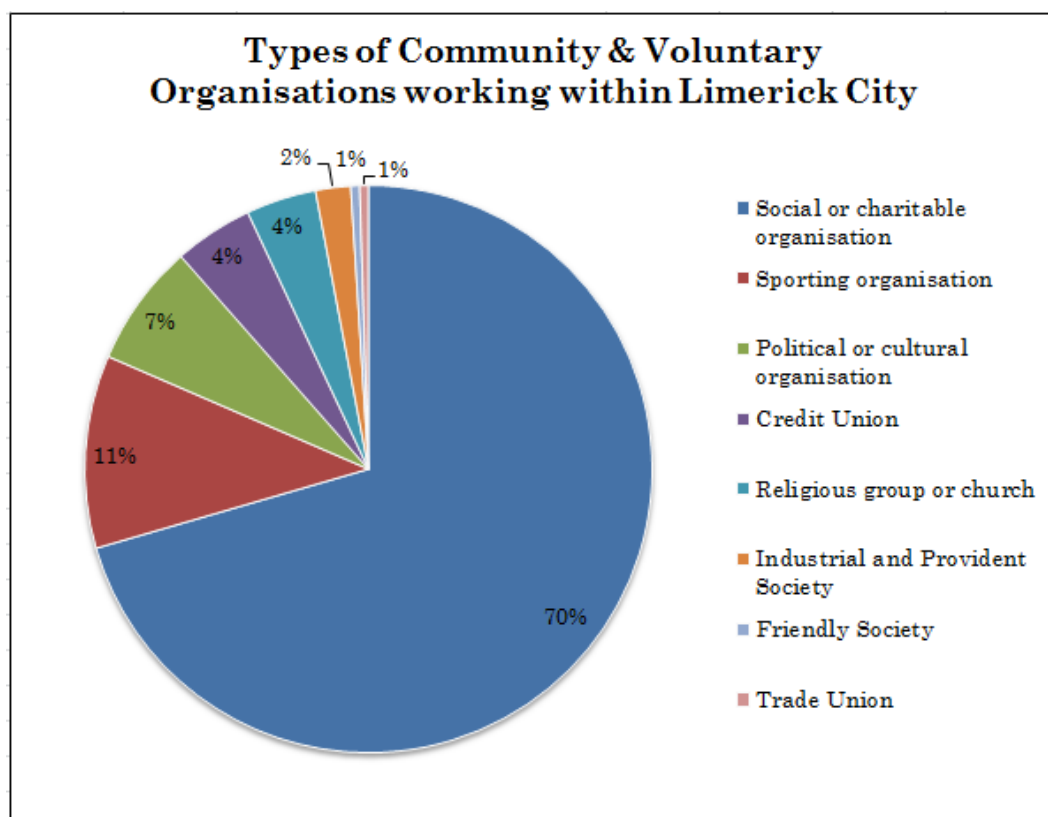
one parent households; the unemployment rate; the proportion of social housing; and the age dependency rate.

development of their local community. They are also represented on wider structures such as the umbrella groups and the Regeneration Community Consultative Forum.

The Limerick Youth Service targets the vulnerable under 25s age group that live within Limerick City. Working in partnership with key stakeholders, Limerick Youth Service supports over 40 volunteer-led youth clubs, two Youth Cafes, ten community-based youth projects, a Youth Information Service, a Residential and Outdoor Activities Centre and provides vocational training and education programmes for early school leavers.

In order to promote volunteering across Limerick City and County, the Limerick Volunteer Centre (LVC) was set up. It is an amalgamation of volunteer co-ordinators from the PAUL Partnership, West Limerick Resources, and Ballyhoura Development. The LVC also provides training for those in management roles of community and voluntary organisations.

Figure 6.3-1: Percentage & Types of Community & Voluntary Organisations working within Limerick City (consolidated databases of community & voluntary groups¹¹ - Appendix D)



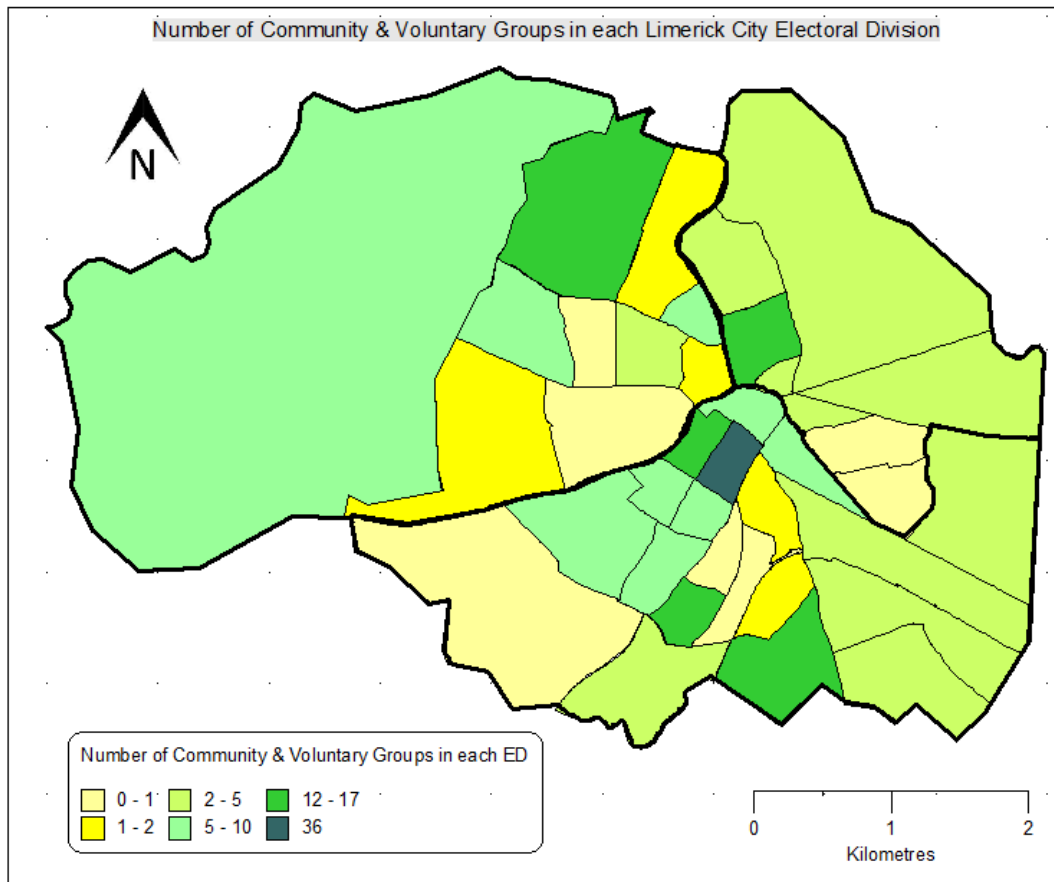
In addition to the area-based community groups previously mentioned, there are many issue based community and voluntary organisations in Limerick City which play an important role in terms of identifying and meeting the needs of certain target groups such as lone parents, older people, people with disabilities, immigrant communities, homeless people, substance abusers, etc. Through an amalgamation of different databases 200 different community and voluntary organisations were found operating within Limerick City (**Appendix D** – list and accompanying locational maps). The main type/category of community and voluntary organisation found within the community and voluntary

¹¹ Community and Voluntary Forum for Limerick City (through the PAUL Partnership); The Citizens' Information Directory of Volunteers 2008; Irish Revenue Commissioners' List of Charities 2012; Registry of Friendly Societies (RFS); Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU); The GAA (Gaelic Athletics Association); The IRFU (Irish Rugby Football Union); Macra na Feirme; The Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA)

landscape of Limerick city was that of the social/charitable organisation, with 70% of all the listed organisations falling into this category (**Figure 6.3-1**). This figure can be linked into the 2006 National Census of Population statistics where social and charitable work have more people who are solely involved in one type of voluntary activity, than any other type of voluntary activity.

The two graphs link up between voluntary activity and type of community and voluntary group, however, one anomaly can be seen, and that is the low participation in political or cultural groups, with this type of group being the third numerous (7%) within Limerick City. It can be hypothesised that this is possible due to term used in the Census of Population of 'Political or Cultural'. This can be linked into the perceived 'political taboo' that exists in Ireland as politics is such an emotionally laden topic for some, and may wish to avoid openly identifying themselves as favourable to discussing this.

Map 6.3-3: Map showing the concentration of community & voluntary groups in Limerick City (consolidated databases of community & voluntary groups – Appendix D)



The highest concentration of community and voluntary groups and organisations can be seen in the city centre in the EDs of Shannon A and Shannon B (**Map 6.3-3**). This concentration can be attributed to the presence of office/administration space found within the city centre, and also due to its centrality and ease of access as the majority of city public transport feed into the city centre.

There is a significant negative statistical relationship between the concentration of community and voluntary groups in an ED and the level of voter turnout for the 2009 Local/European Elections (Pearson's $R = -.538$; $R = .000$). This moderate negative correlation shows that as voter participation levels increase, the number of community and voluntary groups' present decrease in an area; the pattern seen in **Map**

6.3-3 is the mirror opposite to the pattern seen in the voter turnout **Map 6.2-2**, this is most likely due to the greater concentration of groups in the more socially deprived areas, that have been specifically targeted by State and EU funding.

While a sizeable list of community and voluntary groups were discovered in Limerick City after amalgamating the different databases together, it must be noted that not all these databases contained up to date information, e.g. the 2008 Citizen's Information Volunteer Booklet. Another point to note is that registration for the Limerick City Community and Voluntary Forum database is on voluntary basis, if a group did not perceive the Forum as beneficial then they may choose not to register, highlighting the shortcomings of this database, and the possibility that it may be exclusionary to certain groups, due to their perception and/knowledge of the Forum.

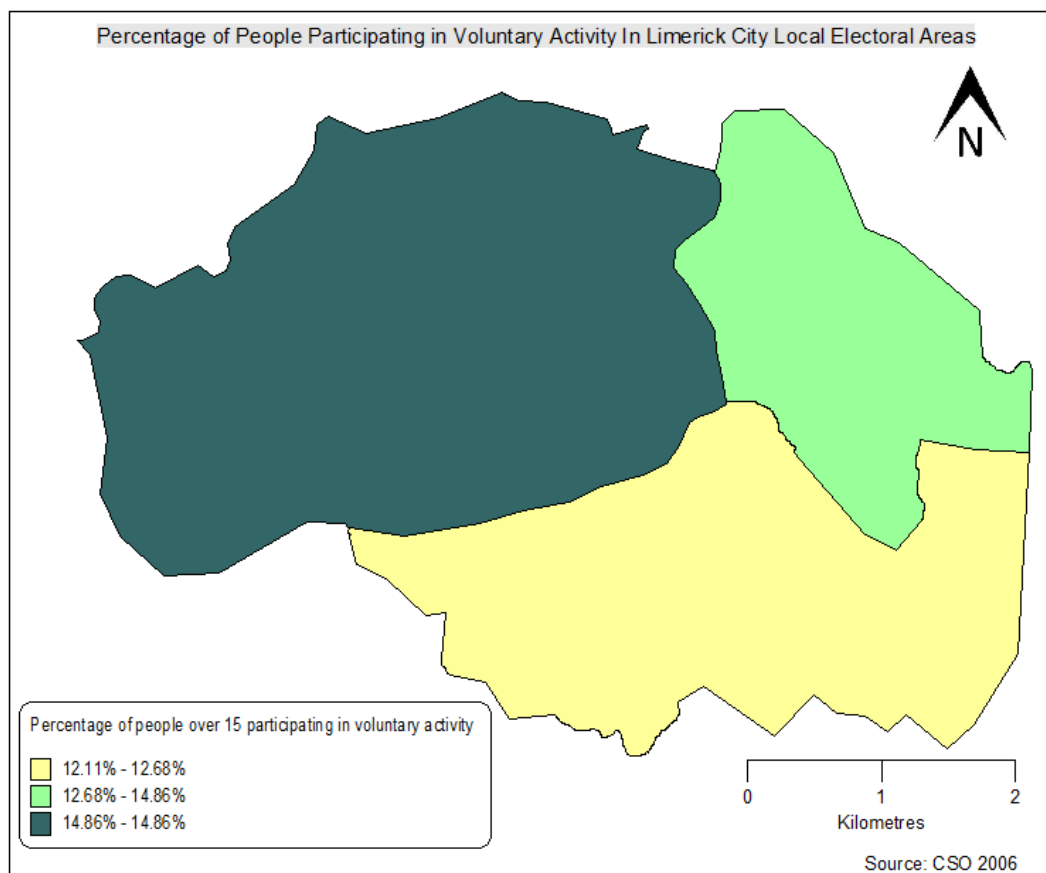
6.4 Voluntary Participation in Limerick City

In 2006 14,414 people, aged 15 years or over, volunteered for at least one type of voluntary activity but were less likely to participate in a voluntary organisation than the national population. While the majority of the population in Limerick City did not partake in any measurable form of voluntary activity according to the Census of Population, the majority of those who did volunteer, were involved in more than one type of voluntary activity. This shows that volunteers are actively involved in many forms of voluntary activity, showing that they don't tend to cluster into any one form of voluntary activity, but extend past these boundaries. When investigating the gender division of voluntary participation men in Limerick City were the least likely to volunteer for religious organisations while women in were least likely to volunteer for most types of voluntary organisations, this gender imbalance can be attributed to the high levels of lone parent families

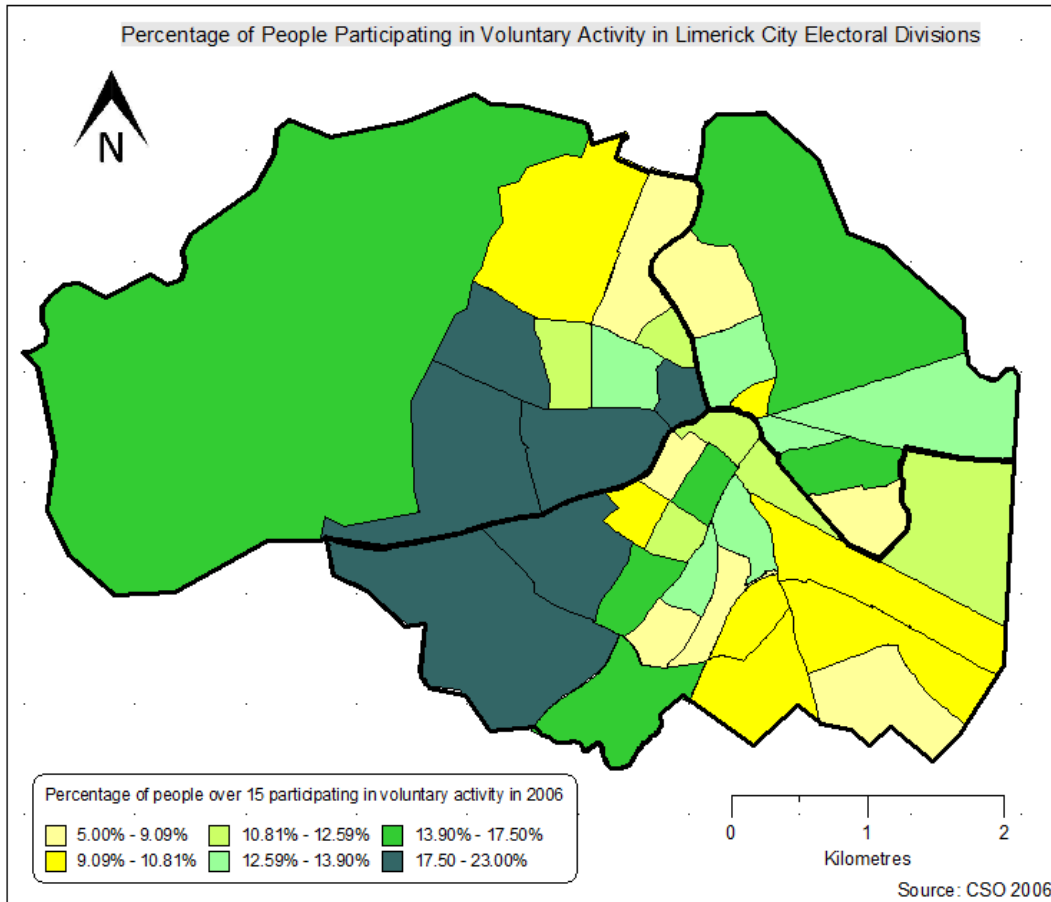
(predominately mother as head of household) living within Limerick City (There are 3,071 lone parent households in Limerick City: 87% lone mothers and 13% lone fathers; CSO,2006).

When the 13.1% of the Limerick City population who volunteer is mapped (**Map 6.4-1; Map 6.4-2**) a pattern similar to that of the voter participation pattern can be seen which correlates ($R=.463$; $P<.01$).

Map 6.4-1: Percentage of People Participating in Voluntary Activity in Limerick City Local Electoral Areas (CSO)



Map 6.4-2: Percentage of People Participating in Voluntary Activity in Limerick City Electoral Divisions (CSO)



Again areas of higher residential mobility within the city centre have lower voluntary activity participation; it can be hypothesised that this can be attributed to the fact that areas of high mobility foster a poor sense of community belonging, and therefore engagement with the community through community and voluntary organisations is reduced.

As with the voter participation pattern, voluntary activity is associated with the relative deprivation scorings. This presence of voluntary activity in these disadvantaged communities is not uniform across the city, with the communities in Ballinacurra Weston actively participating in civil society more. This imbalance seen in voluntary participation in disadvantage communities can be due to the origins of

the community and voluntary infrastructure in these areas. As these areas have been allocated as RAPID and regeneration areas there is an agency-community partnership in place with a multitude of State Agencies, and this exogenous/top-down force on a community may not always work. Grassroots/endogenous organisations also exist within these areas, due in part to the high levels of bonding social capital (link between family, friends and neighbours) as people in more disadvantaged areas tend to interact more within their community (Humphreys & Dineen, 2006), therefore it can be hypothesised that areas with a higher concentration of community-led/grassroots organisations would display higher levels of voluntary participation.

“It wouldn’t surprise me that more people in disadvantaged areas would volunteer because they wouldn’t have the resources in their community if they didn’t. They don’t have the disposable income that well-off people do to pay for the likes of golf club membership, or even GAA membership.”

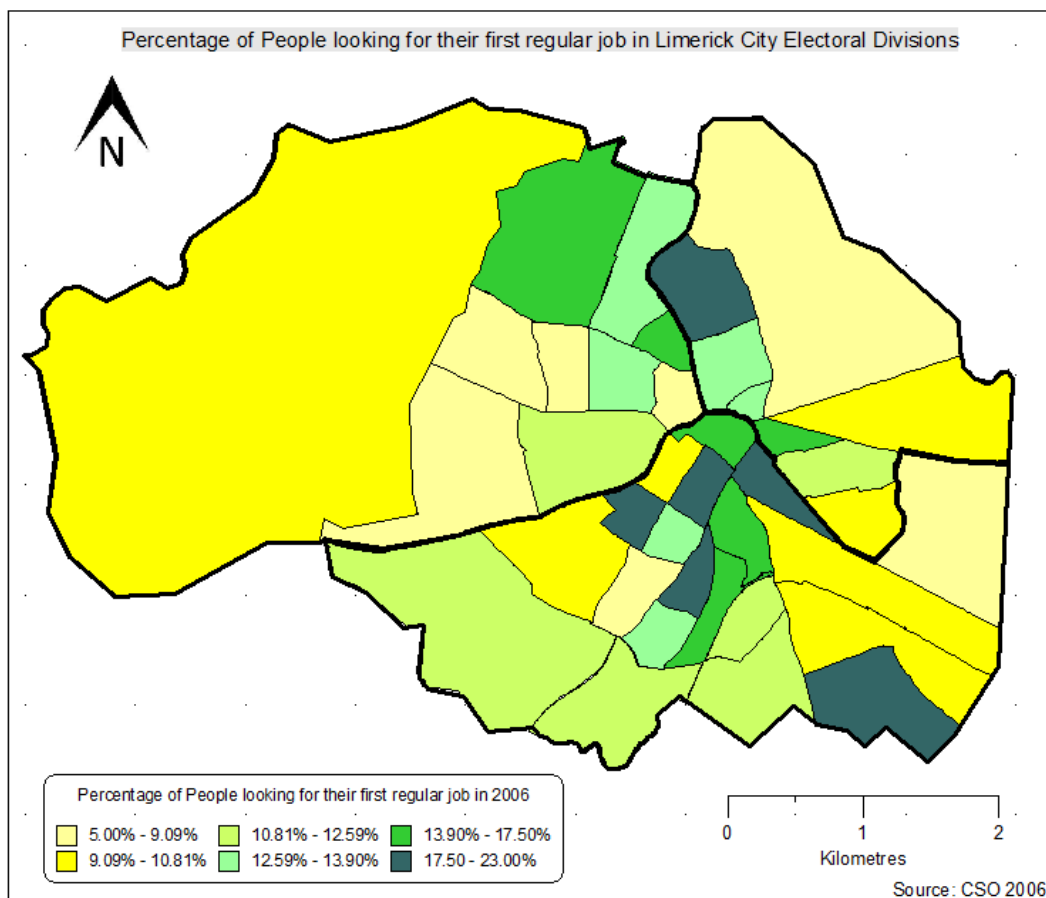
Volunteer Coordinator in Limerick City.

Another pattern has emerged from voluntary activity participation as affluent high mobility communities also have high levels of participation and a strong correlation was found (Pearson’s $R=.732$; $P<.01$). These areas are centred around the South Circular Road and the North Circular Road. This pattern is due to the relatively high levels of linking social capital found in these areas of Limerick City as institutional trust is higher in the more affluent communities and people are more willing to work in vertical power hierarchies, such as dealing State agencies, as the more disadvantaged areas tend to more readily involve themselves with the local community and voluntary organisations.

Principal economic status of males and females is another influencing factor for voluntary participation in Limerick City (at ED level). Being

at work for both males and females is a high indicator for voluntary activity at ED level with strong correlations (e.g. Males – At work/ Total males involved in one or more voluntary activity: $R=.941$, $P<.01$; Females – At work/ Total females involved in one or more voluntary activity: $R=.921$, $P<.01$). Males and females actively looking for their first regular job are the least likely to participate in voluntary participation (**Map 6.4-3**); this can be due to time restraints due to job applications. But another factor to explain this voluntary activity participation pattern of those actively seeking their first employment is that the majority of those doing so only have qualification levels ranging primary level to lower and upper secondary level.

Map 6.4-3: Percentage of People looking for their first regular job in Limerick City Electoral Divisions in 2006 (CSO)



6.5 Conclusion

Patterns of voter participation and voluntary activity participation have emerged through the mapping of these activities in Limerick City. The demography and living conditions of the communities living within an area influence their participation in representative and participative democracy. These factors include the residential mobility of people within an area; the deprivation score of an area; and the principal economic status of those living within an area, which is linked into the education levels of those within the community.

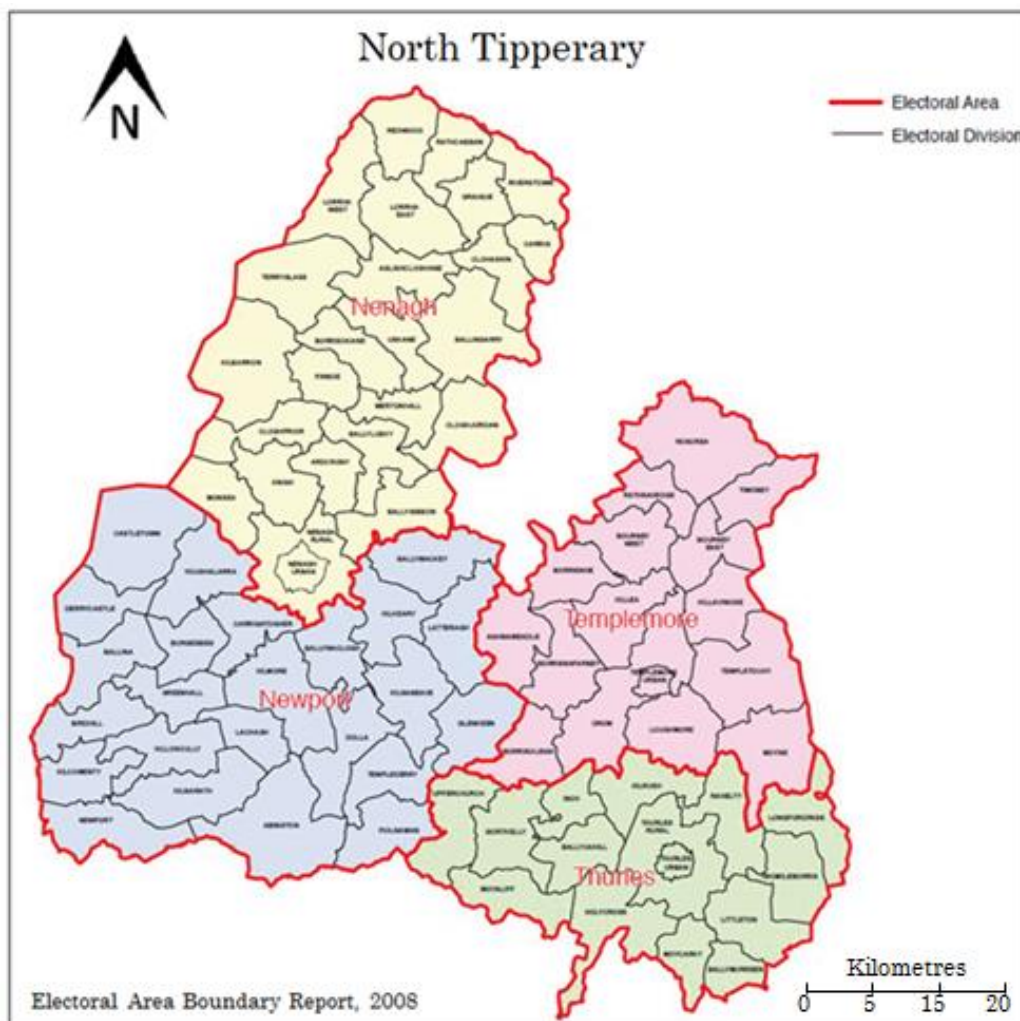
Limerick City has extensive community and voluntary infrastructure in place, which the main aim of is to further engage the communities of Limerick City, most specifically those living within the more disadvantaged communities with horizontal structures, which includes local community and voluntary groups, and vertical structures, which takes into account the forums, boards and community representation at City level. Yet census data reveal it has the lowest level of volunteerism in the State. As the findings of this chapter suggest, persistent deprivation, rather than the absence of an institutional framework is a significant barrier to the development of civil society in Limerick City.

Chapter 7: The Civil Society Landscape of North Tipperary & the Community of Inch

7.1 Introduction: The Geography & Demography of North Tipperary

North Tipperary is a medium-sized Irish county (covering 2,023.43 square kilometres) and is part of the Mid-West Region. It is also situated in the Southern and Eastern NUTS 2 Regional Assembly Area. North Tipperary is divided into 4 Local Electoral Areas, for local authority electoral purposes and 80 Electoral Divisions for statistical purposes (**Map 7.1-1**).

Map 7.1-1: Locations of EDs & LEAs in North Tipperary



The headquarters of North Tipperary County council are located in Nenagh and there are area offices in Borrisokane, Newport, Roscrea and Thurles. There are 21 locally elected representatives on the Council who are elected from four local electoral areas, Nenagh (6 representatives), Newport (5 representatives), Templemore (5 representatives), and Thurles (5 representatives).

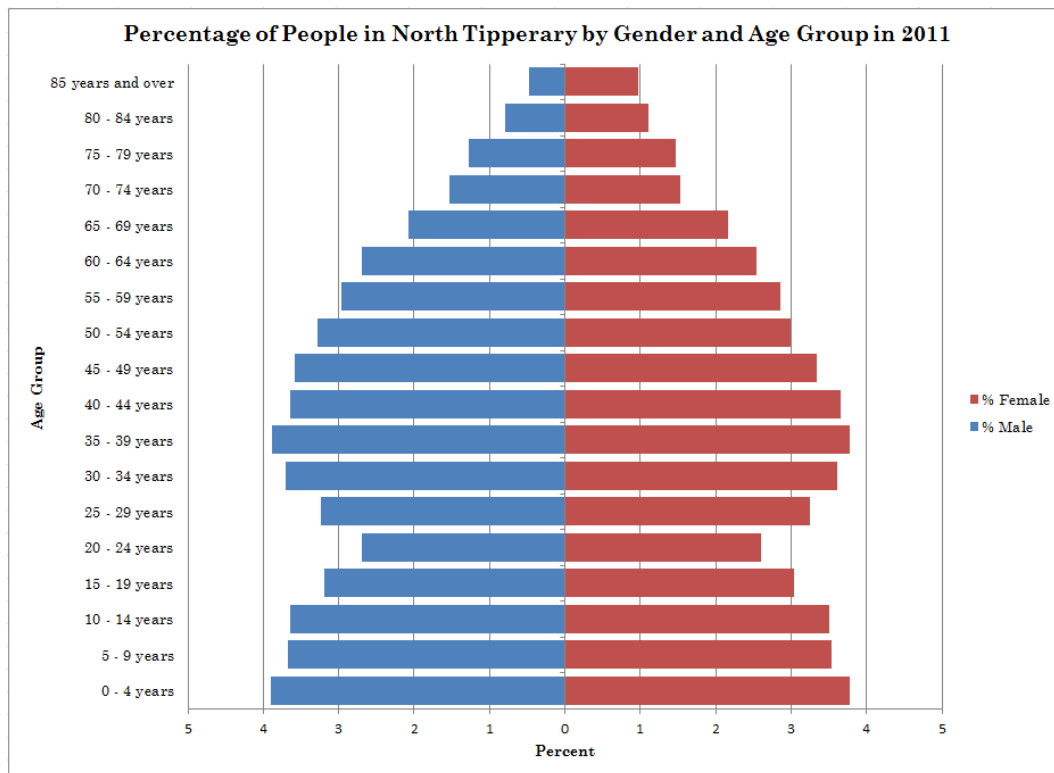
North Tipperary has a total population (CSO, 2011) of 70,322, comprising of urban and rural settlements. It is predominantly a rural county; however, parts of North Tipperary are experiencing intensive urbanisation and suburbanisation with 23.28% of the population of the County being concentrated in Thurles (with a population of 7,933 in 2011) and Nenagh (with a population of 8,439 in 2011). The other urban areas account for 10.63% of the total population of North Tipperary with a population of 5,403 in Roscrea and a population of 2,071 in Templemore in 2011. The majority of people in North Tipperary live in the open countryside and in small towns and villages (60%) throughout the County; however, over the past decade population growth has been concentrated in areas along the N7 route between Nenagh and Limerick City. As a result the towns located along the route have experienced population growth rates (Newport: 29%, between 2006 & 2011, with population of 1,806 in 2011; Ballina: 24%, between 2006 & 2011, with a population of 2,442 in 2011). The population of the County has been steadily increasing from 1996 (**Table 7.1-1**) but still maintains a low population density of 35 persons per square kilometre.

Table 7.1-1: Population change in North Tipperary between 1991 Census & 2011 Census (CSO)

Census Year	1991	1996	2002	2006	2011
North Tipperary	57,854	58,021	61,010	66,023	70,322
Inter-Census Population Change		+0.3%	+5.2%	+8.2%	+6.5%

In 2006, 1.8% of the Irish population lived in North Tipperary. There were slightly more people in North Tipperary aged 19 years or under (28.0% vs. 27.2%) and fewer people in the age group 20 to 39 (28.3% vs. 32.7%) (CSO, 2006) compared to the national average and this could indicate that people who reach adulthood in North Tipperary move away for work or study reasons as this is a predominantly rural area (**Figure 7.1-1**). There were proportionally more people in the 40 to 59 age group and aged 65 years and over group than the national average.

Figure 7.1-1: 2011 Population in North Tipperary by Gender & Age Group (CSO)



Men in North Tipperary were less likely to report that they have a primary or postgraduate degree and were more likely to be retired than men nationally and less likely to be unemployed or studying (CSO, 2006). Women in were less likely to have third level qualifications compared to the national average but were more likely to have secondary level and technical qualifications; also women in North

Tipperary were less likely to be at work and more likely to be looking after home/family.

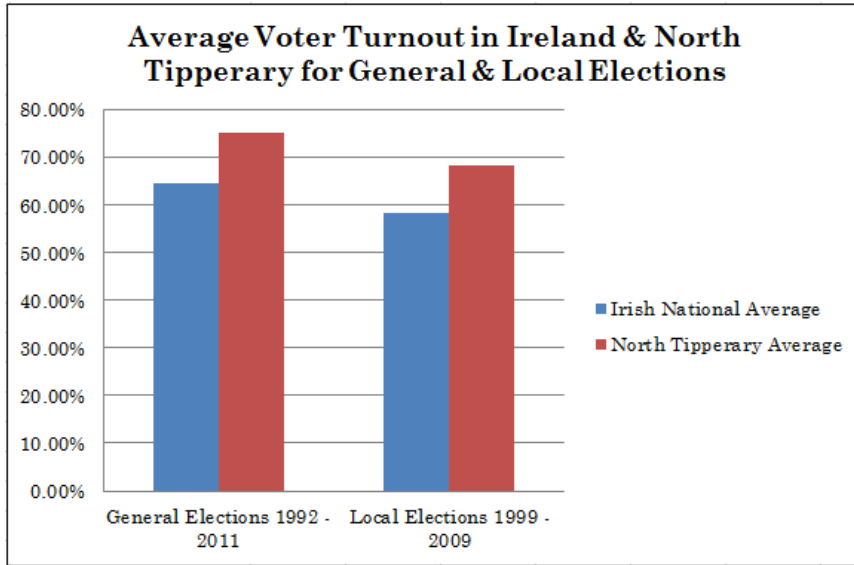
The total number of people at work in North Tipperary at the time of the 2006 census was 33,498, with females making up 39.9% of the workforce but this was below the national average of 42.6%. The largest sector in terms of employment was the commerce and trade sector. People in North Tipperary were less likely to be employed in the commerce and trade sector than the national average, however, were more likely to work in agriculture, forestry, fishing, construction and manufacturing sectors (CSO, 2006).

7.2 Voter Participation in North Tipperary

Average voter participation in General Elections in North Tipperary between the years 1992 and 2011 has been 75.13% which is above the Irish national average of 64.47% (**Figure 7.2-1**). In the most recent General Election in 2011, 77.16% of people registered to vote in North Tipperary turned out to vote.

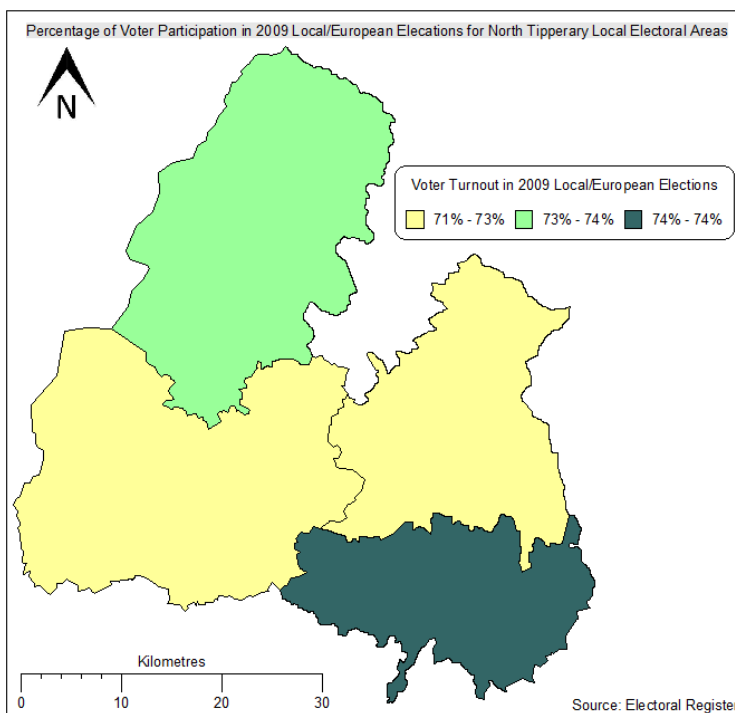
Average voter turnout in North Tipperary is lower for local elections with an average voter participation of 68.36% between the years 1999 and 2009, however, this figure is above the national average of 58.30% for the same time period (**Figure 7.2-1**). When looking at voter turnout for the most recent local election in 2009, the Irish National average of 60.75% again is lower than North Tipperary with a turnout of 74%.

Figure 7.2-1: Average Voter Turnout in Ireland & North Tipperary for General & Local Elections (NSD; DECLG)

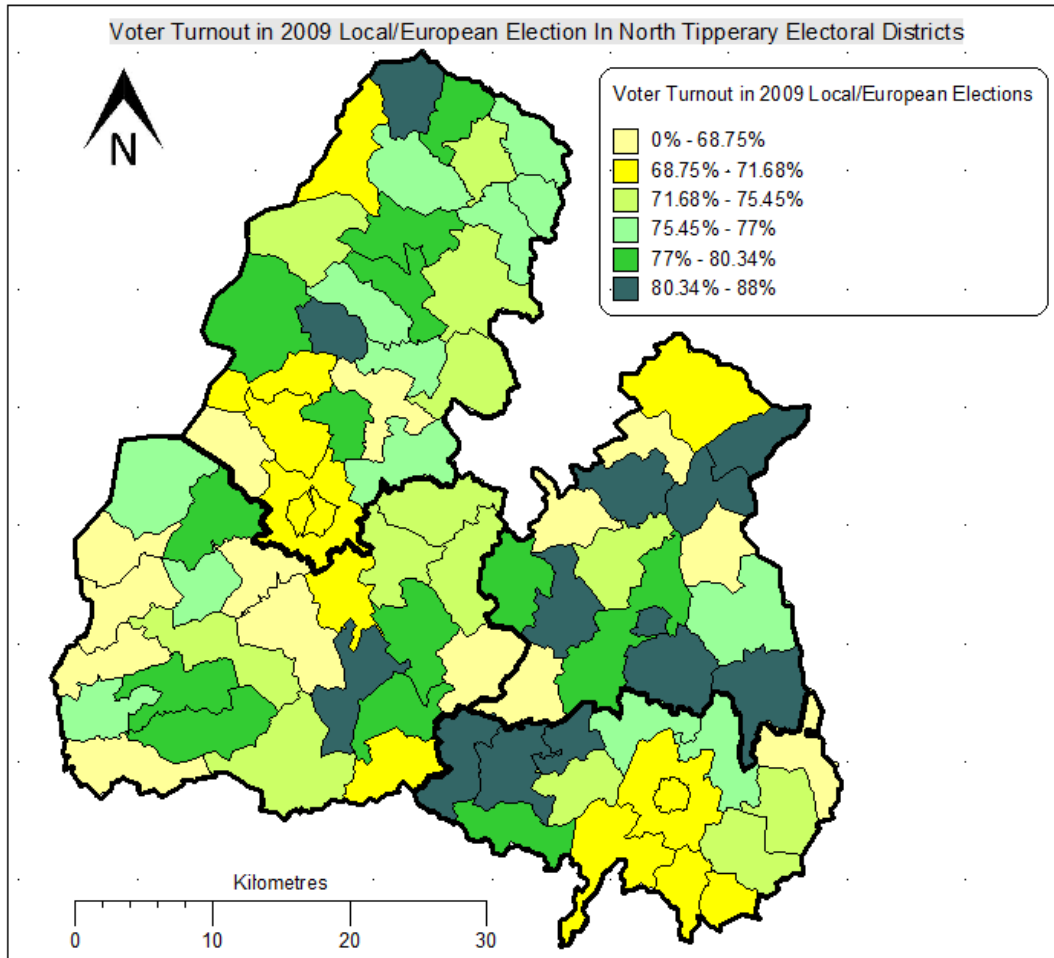


North Tipperary is divided into 4 LEAs and 80 EDs, and voter turnout figures have been calculated for these small area units using the electoral register and have been mapped for the 2009 Local/European elections (**Map 7.2-1; Map 7.2-2**).

Map 7.2-1: Voter Turnout in the 2009 Local/European Elections in North Tipperary Local Electoral Areas (Checked/Marked Electoral Register for 2009 Local Elections)



Map 7.2-2: Voter Turnout in the 2009 Local/European Elections in North Tipperary Electoral Divisions (Checked/Marked Electoral Register for 2009 Local Elections)



A pattern in voter participation can be seen in these maps (**Map 7.2-1;** **Map 7.2-2**). Voter participation is higher in predominately rural areas for the 2009 Local/European elections, with the exception of the urban settlement area ED of Templemore. An East-West divide can be seen where the EDs located in the Eastern parts of the County recording a higher for voter turnout than those in the Western parts. It can be hypothesised that this East-West trend has occurred due to the settlement pattern that has occurred along the N7 route, creating commuter settlements for nearby Limerick City. This form of settlement could lead to a poor sense of community belonging and identification with local issues that local representatives can amend. If the new incomers into the rural community are coming from an urban

environment research has shown that these ‘urban refugees’ remain separate from the rural/host community both economically and socially (Kavanagh, 2002; Forsythe, 1980). This seclusion from the host community further removes their connection to local issues and representatives. Morgenstern and Swindle (2005) state that district characteristics and forces play an important role in electoral politics, and one such force found in Irish plebiscites is that of the candidate-centred approach to campaigning, specifically in the case of non-party or independent candidates (Weeks, 2011). North Tipperary displays this level of localism, as voters display a preference to vote for a candidate from their community, and also that of personalism, where voters prefer to vote for candidates personally known to them (Weeks, 2011). Kavanagh, Mills and Sinnott (2004) also noted this ‘bailiwick effect’ (‘The Lowry Team’, in the case of North Tipperary¹²) as a factor in voter turnout. Weeks (2011:26) identified indicators for this level of personalism¹³ and localism¹⁴ found within the Irish local vote. When these indicators are taken into account a certain level of attachment to the community and locality is required for voter participation.

7.3 The Community & Voluntary Sector in North Tipperary

The community and voluntary sector is represented by the North Tipperary Community and Voluntary Association (CAVA), which was first established as the Community and Voluntary Forum in 1998. The aim of CAVA is that of community involvement that is supported and encouraged with Local Authorities (in this instance North Tipperary

¹² Keena, C., 2012. *Welcome to Lowryland*. Irish Times, 05/05/2012.

¹³ Personalism – Candidate-centred vote: vote for candidate rather than party, and would still vote for candidate if they changed party (Whetstone, 2002).

¹⁴ Localism – Local issue: identified as main voting incentive for candidate of choice; Local candidate: how good candidate is at working for local area; Local area: performance of local vis-à-vis national economy (Featherstone, 1996).

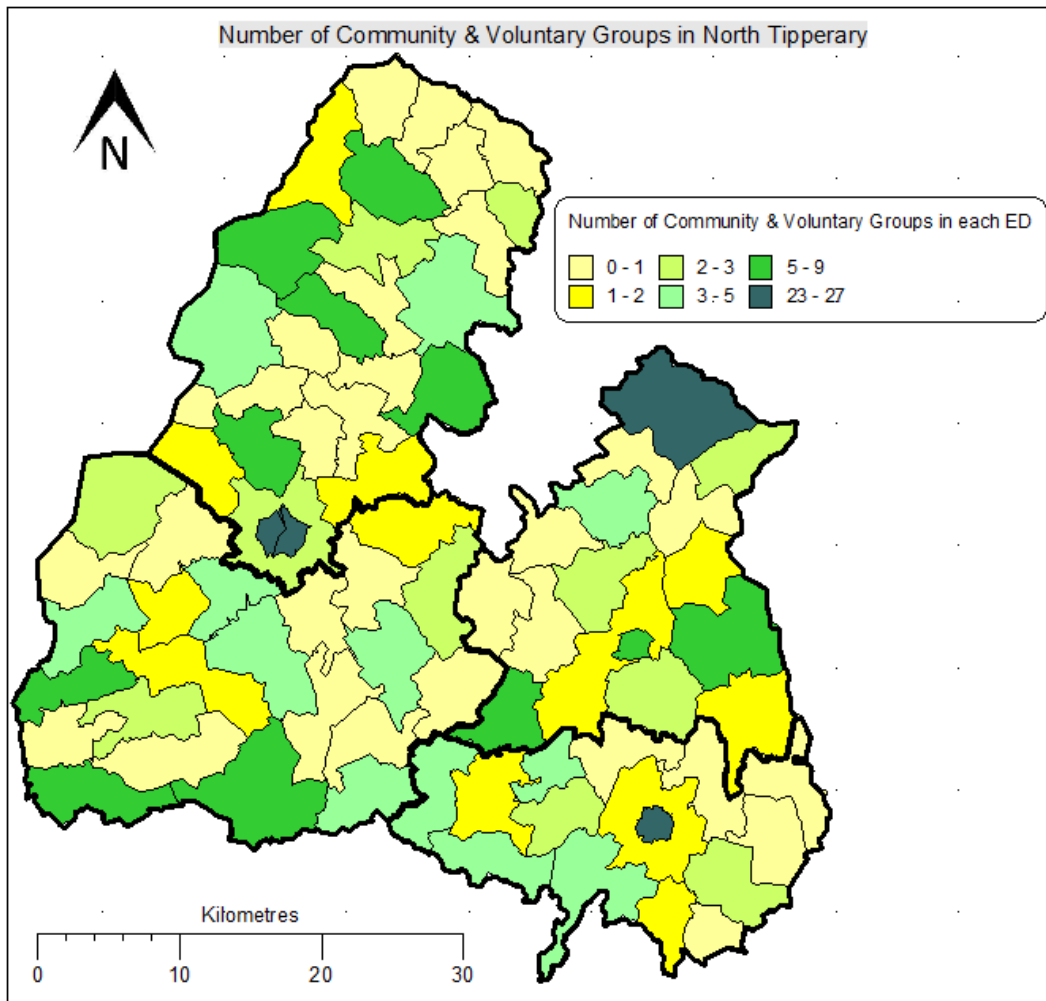
County Council), which would lead to participative local democracy. The CAVA Mission Statement (2011:2), clearly states this aim:

“To facilitate people to empower themselves through collective participation in local voluntary and community development.”

CAVA facilitates communities to have an input into the County Development Board Process. Membership is open to every group involved in local community and voluntary group activity, with an administration fee of €20 per group per year. Therefore registration for the CAVA database is voluntary and has a monetary cost for community and voluntary groups. This cost may deter groups from joining CAVA. However, through this membership CAVA supports and encourages community and voluntary groups by developing networks and providing information and training. CAVA receives funding from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

The North Tipperary County Development Board (CDB) was established in 2000, and comprises of representatives from local government, local development organisations, social partners (including the community and voluntary sector) and state agencies active at local level. The Board is in charge of devising and overseeing a strategy for the economic, social and cultural development of North Tipperary, through the co-ordination and integration of public service delivery at the local level. The current structure of CAVA was set up by North Tipperary County Council to help facilitate and engage local communities in the CDB.

Map 7.3-1: Number of Community and Voluntary Groups present in each ED in North Tipperary (Consolidated databases of community & voluntary groups – Appendix E)

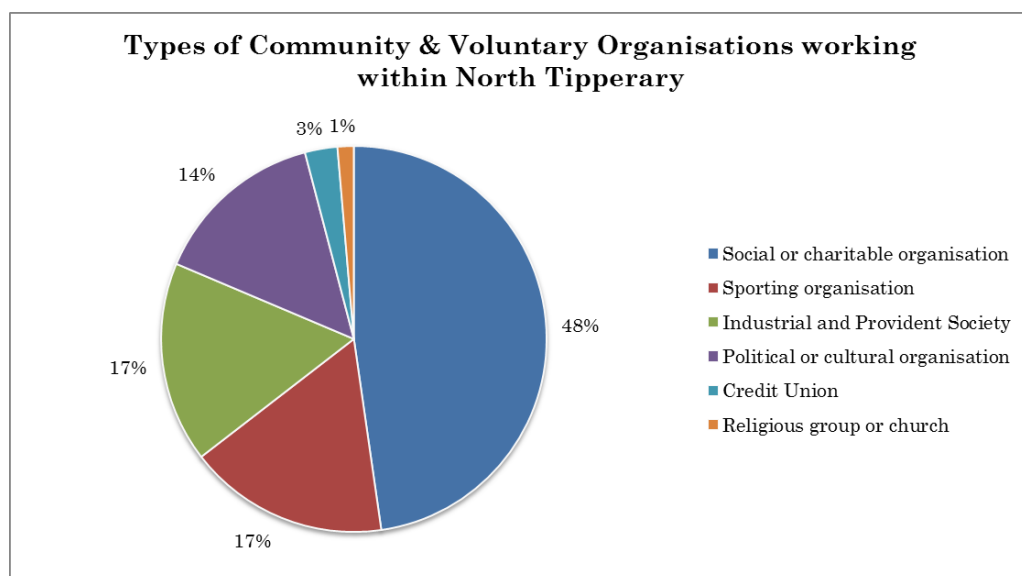


In addition to those affiliated to CAVA and the North Tipperary CDB, there are many issue based community and voluntary organisations in North Tipperary which play an important role in terms of identifying and meeting the needs of the different communities across the County. Through an amalgamation of different databases 220 (**Appendix E** - list and accompanying locational map) different community and voluntary organisations were found to be operating in North Tipperary (**Map 7.3-1**). The majority of these organisations are based in urban settlements in North Tipperary of Thurles, Nenagh, Templemore, Borrisokane and Roscrea. This pattern can be due to these areas being

administrative centres for their surrounding hinterland, and are located on the main thoroughfares in the County, giving ease of access to service users. However, some rural areas in North Tipperary also have high numbers of community and voluntary organisations, such as the villages of Upperchurch and Drombane found along the Old Cork Road (Limerick to Thurles), Terryglass on the shore of Lough Derg, and Cloughjordan, a village that holds the claim of Ireland’s first ‘Eco Village’.

The main type/category of community and voluntary organisation found within the community and voluntary landscape of North Tipperary was that of the social/charitable organisation, with 48% of all the listed organisations falling into this category (**Figure 7.3-1**). The second most frequent type of voluntary and community group is that of a sporting organisation, and in the 2006 National Census of Population statistics sporting related voluntary work had more people who were solely involved in one type of voluntary activity, than any other type of voluntary activity (7% of population of North Tipperary over 15 years).

Figure 7.3-1: Percentage & Types of community & Voluntary Organisations working within North Tipperary (Consolidated databases of community & voluntary groups – Appendix E)



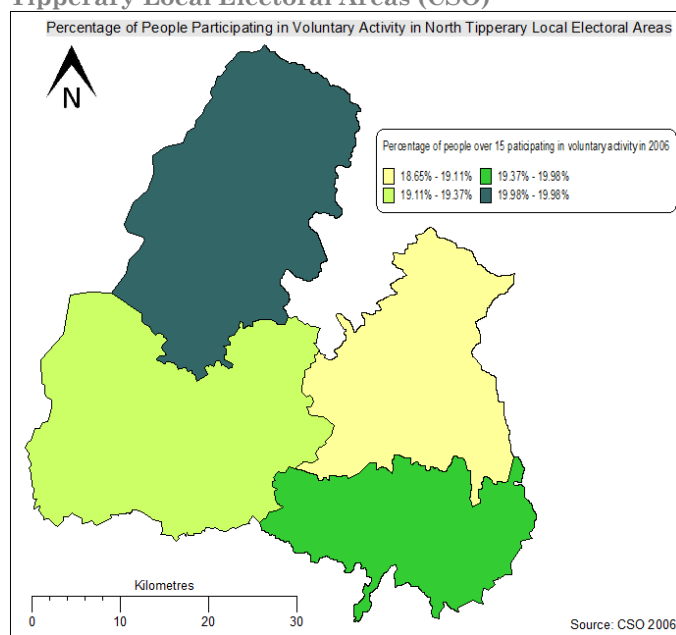
In relation to the types of voluntary activity recorded in North Tipperary by the 2006 Census of Population some patterns can be seen in **Figure 7.3-1** with the types of community and voluntary organisations found in North Tipperary. The most popular sole voluntary activity in North Tipperary was for sporting organisations with 16% of the total participants recorded as volunteers in 2006, relating to the high presence of sporting organisations (17%) in North Tipperary. Social and charitable organisations are the most abundant type of community and voluntary organisation in North Tipperary (48%) accounting for the second most popular sole voluntary type of activity that volunteers participated in (14%). However, a divergence is seen with political and cultural organisations make up 14% of the community and voluntary landscape in North Tipperary yet only 4% of volunteers recorded this as their sole type of voluntary activity, yet the opposite can be seen with religious or church organisations, as these organisations only make up 1% of community and voluntary landscape in North Tipperary but 12% of volunteers in 2006 recorded as solely volunteering in these types of organisations.

7.4 Voluntary Participation in North Tipperary

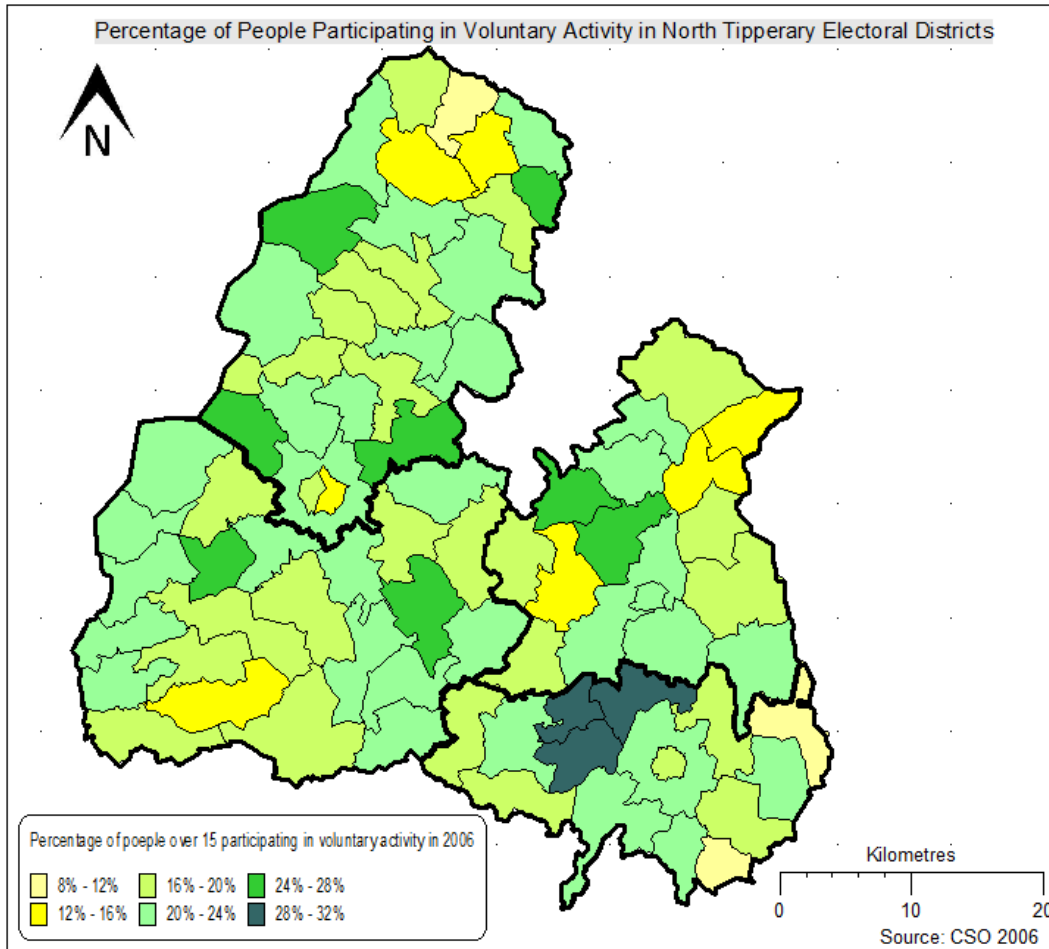
According to the 2006 Census of Population, 11,417 people in North Tipperary, aged 15 years or over, were more likely to participate in a voluntary organisation. When this volunteer population North Tipperary (accounting for 19.2% of the total population in North Tipperary in 2006) are mapped out (**Map 7.4-1; Map 7.4-2**) a different pattern arises to that seen in the voter participation pattern in the 2009 Local/European Elections. No correlation exists between the geography of voter participation and voluntary activity participation in North Tipperary at ED level. This lack of correlation can be due in part to local variables in North Tipperary which have reduced the presence of a relationship between indicators of participative and

representative democracy. As mentioned earlier voter turnout in North Tipperary is influenced by localism and personalism due to the candidates (representatives from the locality) that run for elections, most notably, the independent candidates (Weeks, 2011). The location of the polling stations is also a local factor that influences voter turnout patterns (Kavanagh, 2002). Voluntary participation patterns along with voter turnout patterns are also influenced by the rural locality in the case of North Tipperary, leading to variance in such factors as the availability of transportation and the level travel for employment (ibid.). Informal volunteering is not well documented in Ireland, and these participation figures are not included in the 2006 Census of Population data, resulting in loosening the correlation between indicators of participative and representative democracy at the local level. Integration into a community and into community and voluntary groups is another local factor that impacts on volunteers and their participation (Gidron, 1987). These local variables can intervene in the correlation of the patterns between indicators of participative and representative democracy, and in the case of North Tipperary dissolve the relationship seen at other geographic levels.

Map 7.4-1: Percentage of People Participating in Voluntary Activity in North Tipperary Local Electoral Areas (CSO)



Map 7.4-2: Percentage of People Participating in Voluntary Activity in North Tipperary Electoral Divisions (CSO)



The urban areas have lower levels of voluntary participation similar to that seen for voter participation. Also scoring low for voluntary participation are the disadvantaged rural areas, classified under the CLÁR programme (**Appendix F**). The CLÁR programme (which has now ended) assisted rural development projects within EDs that were designated as being a CLÁR area, due to significant population decline. The particular pattern seen in voluntary participation in CLÁR and non-CLÁR areas shows a weak positive correlation ($R=.262$; $P<.05$).

7.5 Representative & Participative Democracy in the Community of Inch

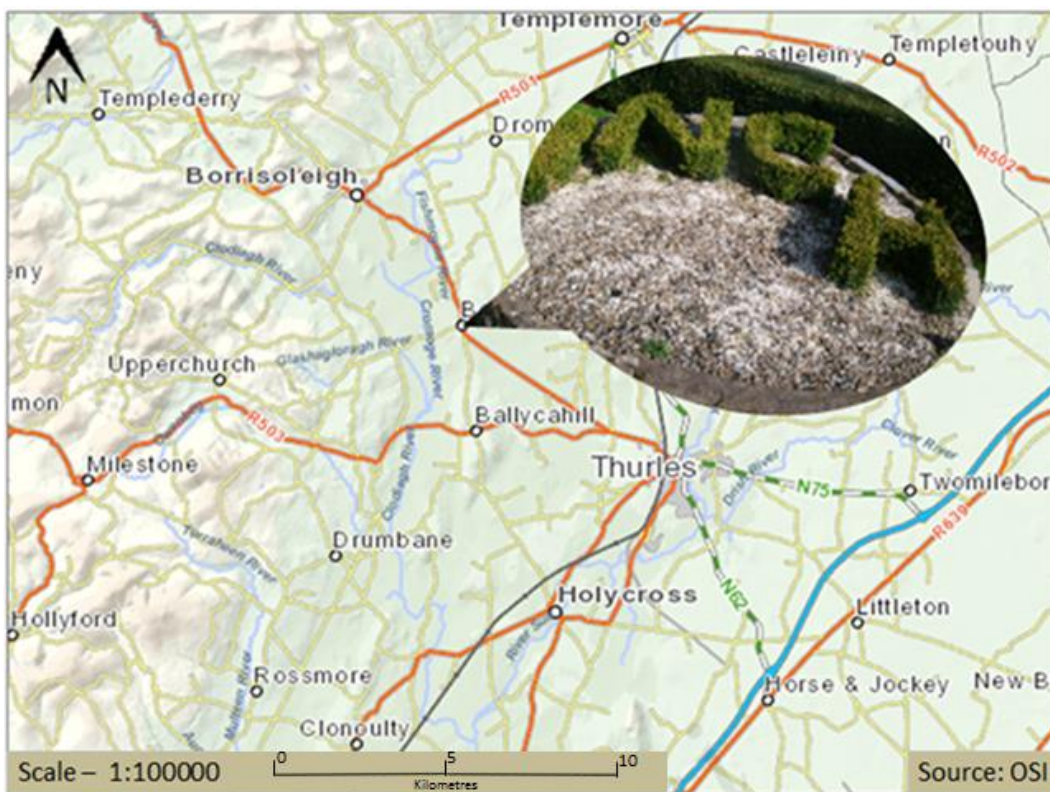
During the process of the fieldwork a case study sample community was chosen for an in-depth investigation of their representative and participative democracy landscape through the administration of questionnaire surveys and a focus group. When the voter participation and voluntary participation data were mapped for the case study locations it emerged that North Tipperary had clearer defined communities of volunteerism (communities that scored high on both indices of participative and representative democracy), and these communities matched up with the map of community and voluntary groups within North Tipperary. No such clearly defined community existed within Limerick City. As a result this in-depth investigation at the local community level was carried out in North Tipperary. When the voter participation and voluntary participation data were mapped for North Tipperary one particular community scored high for participation in forms of representative and participative democracy, the community of Inch. As can be seen in the table (**Table 7.5-1**) the ED of Inch scores highest for voluntary participation (31.81%), and is in the top ten for voter participation in the 2009 Local/European Elections (81.98%).

Table 7.5-1: Table Showing the Top 10 EDs in North Tipperary for Voting Participation & Voluntary Participation

North Tipperary			
ED	Voter Turnout	ED	Voluntary Activity
1 Gortkelly	87.25	1 Inch	31.81
2 Loughmore	87.13	2 Nenagh Urban	30.5
3 Timoney	84.62	3 Ballycahill	29.84
4 Templemore	84.16	4 Kilrush	28.33
5 Bourney West	82.83	5 Killea	27.11
6 Upperchurch	82.35	6 Kilnaneave	25.95
7 Inch	81.98	7 Terryglass	25.75
8 Dolla	81.68	8 Monsea	25.1
9 Finnoe	81.43	9 Borrisnoe	25
10 Bourney East	81.36	10 Burgesbeg	24.76

The ED of Inch consists of the community of Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg (2011 population: 409; 2006 population: 452), and is located on the route of the R498 between the towns of Borrisoleigh and Thurles (**Map 7.5-1**). The village of Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg is in the parish of Drom and Inch, in the archdiocese of Cashel and Emly. There is a National School, a GAA Clubhouse, a Community Hall, a Public House, and a Roman Catholic Church found within the limits of the village.

Map 7.5-1: Location of Inch on R498 (Ordnance Survey Ireland)



7.5.1 Participative Democracy in Inch

The majority of the population of North Tipperary were not involved in any voluntary activity (80.8%), according to the 2006 Census of Population. This figure of non-participation is lower in Inch (68.2%) accounting for 308 people in the community. The desk based research found three community and voluntary groups were working within the ED of Inch from the amalgamation of the different databases of

community and voluntary groups in North Tipperary. These groups were the Inch Old Road Development Committee (social/charitable group), Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg Tidy Town Committee (social/charitable group), and Drom and Inch GAA Club (sporting group). On further investigation during the fieldwork (in consultation with the parish priest) 19 different community and voluntary groups were discovered working within the community of Inch (**Table 7.5-2**), with some of these groups overlapping into the ED of Drom because the ED of Inch falls within the parish of Drom and Inch.

From the Inch community and voluntary groups' profile (**Appendix G**), there are 587 volunteers/memberships. For the groups that work solely within the community of Inch there was a membership of 128, accounting for 31.3% of the population of Inch, over the age of 15 (2011 Census). This figure is on par with that discovered in the Census of Population (31.81%). However, it must be taken into account that some volunteer membership of community and voluntary groups will overlap, and others within the ED of Inch may only volunteer for groups that work within both Drom and Inch.

Table 7.5-2: List of Community & Voluntary Groups in Inch (Inch Community & Voluntary Group Questionnaire Postal Survey)

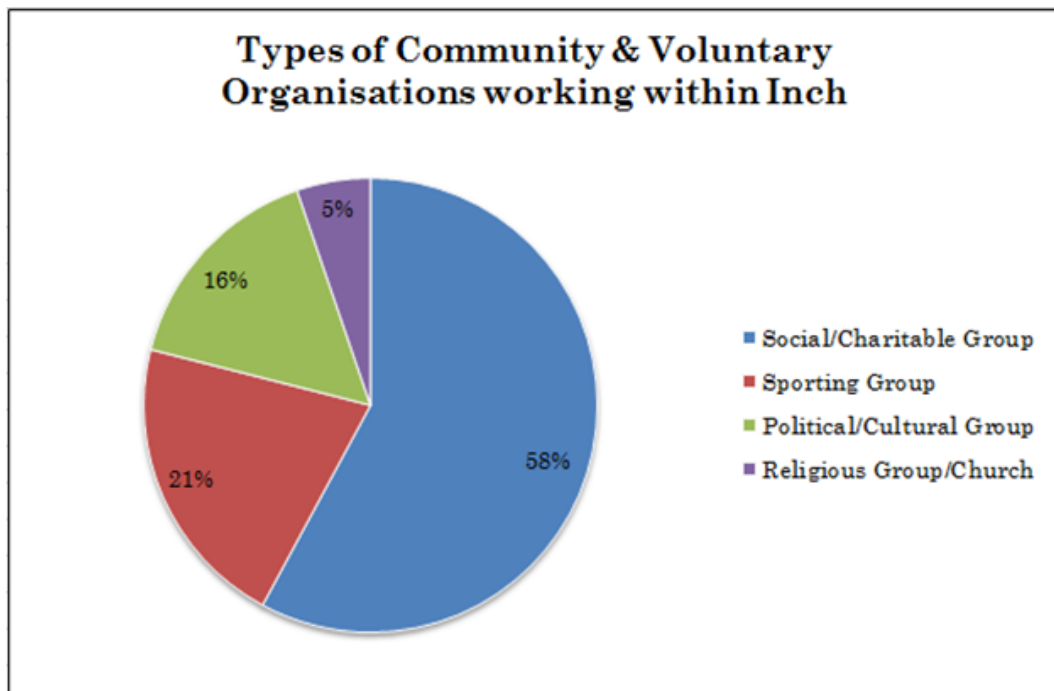
Name of Community & Voluntary Group	Year Founded	Parish/Half Parish	Number of Members
Drom & Inch Alter Society	1961	Drom & Inch	8
Drom & Inch Camogie Club	1990	Drom & Inch	93
Drom & Inch GAA Juvenile Club	1982	Drom & Inch	140
Drom & Inch GAA Senior Club	1987	Drom & Inch	168
Drom & Inch Youth Club	2001	Drom & Inch	38
Drom & Inch Scór Club	n/a	Drom & Inch	n/a
Graveyards Committee	1988	Drom & Inch	7
Historical Society	n/a	Drom & Inch	n/a
Inch Community Centre Committee	1961	Inch	10
Inch Gun Club	n/a	Inch	n/a
Inch Life Savers Defibrillator Group	2010	Inch	6
Inch National School Board of Management	2012	Inch	8
Inch National School Parents Association Committee	2012	Inch	12
Inch Old Road Committee	1983	Inch	8
Inch Players Drama Society	1958	Inch	20
Inch Whist Club	1982	Inch	40
Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg Tidy Village Committee	1980	Inch	12
North Tipperary Hospice Drom & Inch Branch	1994	Drom & Inch	5
Sale of Works Committee	1961	Inch	12

The longest running community and voluntary group is the Inch Players Drama Society which was established in 1958. 52.63% of the community and voluntary groups were founded before 1990, with the majority of the groups in Inch being established during the 1980s. The community and voluntary groups in Inch vary greatly in size ranging from the Drom and Inch GAA Senior Club (168 members) to the Graveyards Committee (7 members). These organisations have seen

no change in their membership in the past decade, with the exception of the Drom and Inch GAA Senior Club and the Drom & Inch Camogie Club both having seen a decrease in the past year this may be attributed to people migrating out of the ED in order to seek employment.

From the 587 members in the community and voluntary organisations 2.6% of the members fall into the 15 – 25 age group, showing the lowest level of membership for all age cohorts. The majority of group members fall into the 25 – 44 age group (29.3%) and the 45 – 65 age group (23.5%). The gender divide of group membership can be considered balanced (Male: 56%; Female: 44%) keeping in line with the 2006 Census results gender divide of recorded volunteers (Male: 51%; Female: 49%). The community and voluntary groups in Inch have long term members with just over half (51.61%) of the total recorded members retaining membership for over 5 years.

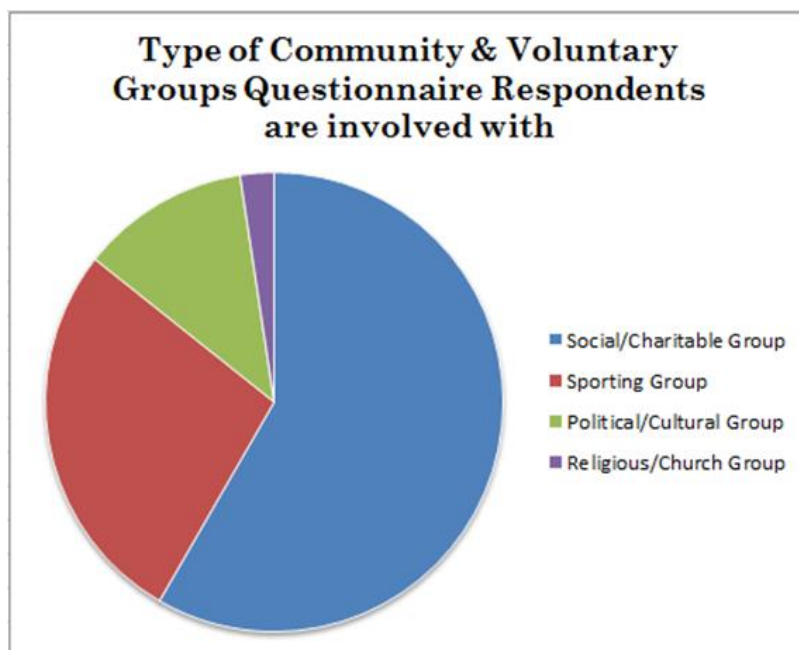
Figure 7.5-1: Percentage & Types of community & Voluntary Organisations working within Inch (Inch Community & Voluntary Group Questionnaire Postal Survey)



The types of community and voluntary groups that work within Inch reflect that of the trend seen in North Tipperary, from the consolidated databases of community and voluntary organisations (**Appendix E**), as a whole with the majority of the community and voluntary groups falling into the category of social or charitable groups (58%)(**Figure 7.5-1**).

Following on from the the community and voluntary groups' questionnaire, 50 questionnaire surveys were administered to volunteers in Inch (response rate of 100%). When the volunteers from Inch were asked what groups they were a member of or participated in, the majority (98%) were involved in some social or charitable organisation (**Figure 7.5-2**). Volunteers involved in a sporting organisation (Drom and Inch GAA Senior Club) accounted for 46% of questionnaire participants. This result shows a divergence with the Census of Population figures for types of voluntary activity in North Tipperary, however, it mirrors the figures seen at national level.

Figure 7.5-2: Type of Community & Voluntary Groups Questionnaire Respondents are involved with (N=50) (Inch Community Volunteers Questionnaire Face-to-Face Survey)



When it comes to attracting membership 100% of the community and voluntary groups in Inch rely on word of mouth, with some groups using other methods to attract volunteers such as the Drom and Inch Juvenile GAA Club use of local newspaper advertisements, while the Inch National School Parents Association and Board of Management send letters home with children looking for anyone interested when the new committees are being elected.

The different community and voluntary groups in Inch hold regular meetings varying from once a week (Inch Whist Club) to twice a year (Drom & Inch Youth Club, Inch Life Savers Defibrillator Group and the North Tipperary Hospice Drom & Inch Branch). The majority of committees (87.5%) are elected every year at the groups annual general meeting. The focus group with the community leaders highlighted that meeting attendance outside of those who are committee members was sporadic, with some only attending the annual general meeting (therefore, resulting in attendance of once a year for some members). This absence in attendance was attributed to the fact that the running of community and voluntary groups entails a lot of paperwork and generally is a long term position, and this is viewed as being off putting to the majority of people.

“Some people end up on a committee because they don’t realise how much work is involved and once you’re in, it’s a job for life.”

Community leader comment during focus group

It has been noted that attendance is high when the group is only active seasonally with a specific length of time designated from the outset, such as the case with the Sale of Works Committee. Also specific fundraising events for the different groups tend to attract more people as these are again seasonal and have a set time frame in which the

event is organised and run, an example of such an event was the fashion show for the Drom and Inch Senior GAA Club.

For 25% of the groups in Inch all of their funds come from members and fundraising (43.75% of the groups hold an annual fundraising event). Exchequer funding makes up 60% of funds for groups which are benefactors of government funding, coming from such sources as North Tipperary LEADER+ and the Department of Education and Science. North Tipperary County Council funding ranges between 10% of group funds to 40% of group funds. The community leaders in the focus group noted that the majority of funding that they receive is for specific projects only, and fundraising is necessary for the continuation of the groups. Funding for a project has been stated as difficult with one community leader stating that they have to go to the funding authority and ‘justify’ why they need the funding, and that it’s ‘not just as simple as saying the place is falling in around us’. Another issue that came up was the centralisation of the Irish State:

“We have to go to Thurles (LEADER) to look for funding, then they have to go to Dublin, then we have to wait for Dublin to get back to Thurles, before Thurles can get back to us, which is really frustrating, why can’t decisions about local problems be made locally?”

Community leader comment during focus group

Only two of the groups in Inch are affiliated to CAVA (10.53%) – the Inch Old Road Development Committee and Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg Tidy Village Group. The community leaders noted that CAVA were good for giving information to groups about funding and management, even if they weren’t members of CAVA. The GAA clubs and Drom and Inch Scór Club fall under the auspices of the GAA. Other groups have membership with an umbrella organisation such as the Inch National School Board of Management with the Catholic Primary School

Management Association (CPSMA), and the Drum and Inch Youth Club with Foróige.

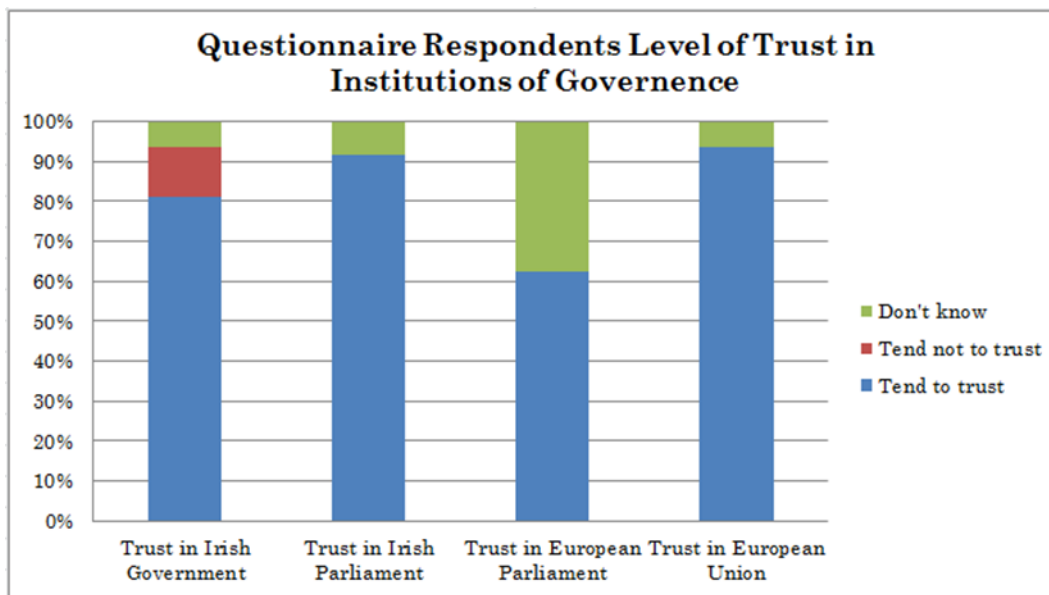
Some barriers have been noted that restrict spontaneous volunteering, and the majority of barriers that were brought up by the community leaders came from procedures put in place by the Irish State. The most notable barrier was that of Garda vetting, as a new application needs to be made for every new voluntary group membership that deals with sensitive members of community. Other barriers that were brought up were insurance, health and safety, and child protection, while it was widely accepted by the community leaders that these measures were “for the good” it added “hardship and responsibility” to the committee members and such paperwork further turned people off the idea of volunteering.

7.5.2 Representative Democracy in Inch

Levels of voter participation are high (association with representative democracy) in Inch, and this can be seen as general voter participation in the volunteer questionnaire participants was 95.8%¹⁵ and this figure ties in with the voter turnout data for the 2009 Local/European elections of 81.98%. These figures at the ED level of Inch are above the mean levels studied at the different geographic levels suggesting that volunteers are more likely to vote. It was noted in the community leaders’ focus group that this figure accounts for everyone in the community as some people who are still on the electoral register might be living away from Inch at the time of the ballot. The community leaders were not surprised about the voting participation figures as there “is a strong local tradition here in Inch” with a history of political representatives coming from the area.

¹⁵ Those participants that had declared themselves as not having voted were found to be within the age group of 15 – 18 years of age and therefore as a result were not of the legal age to vote.

Figure 7.5-3: Volunteer Questionnaire Respondents Level of Trust in Institutions of Governance (N=50) (Inch Community Volunteers Questionnaire Face-to-Face Survey)



Level of institutional trust is also high in Inch as there is a good deal of trust in local representatives, and the community leaders confirmed this as they state that most help and information that they have received in relation to funding has come from a local representative. This level of trust extends to the volunteers in the community of Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg as the majority of volunteer questionnaire participants tended to trust the different levels of institutions (**Figure 7.5-3**). The level of trust in the Irish Government in Inch is significantly higher than the level of trust displayed for Ireland as a whole (19% - mean 2009 and 2010) and the overall level of trust in national government in the EU (34% - mean 2009 and 2010). Levels of institutional trust remain high overall for all institutions of governance in Inch in comparison to the EU 27 Member States and Ireland as a whole. These levels of trust are clearly very high in Inch, providing evidence of the link identified in the literature between trust and active citizenship.

There was some level of distrust among volunteers for the Irish Government, and this is seen predominately in the younger age groups with a moderately strong correlation between age group and trust in the Irish Government (Cramer's $V = .297$). As the questionnaire was aimed at volunteers and 95.8% of these volunteers turn out to vote generally, it can be said that there is a strong positive correlation between voting participation and voluntary participation at the local level of the community of Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg.

7.6 Conclusion

Patterns of voter participation and voluntary activity participation have emerged through the mapping of these activities in North Tipperary. These spatial patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism can be seen along an East/West divide across the County, with urban areas, and disadvantaged rural areas scoring the lowest. People in North Tipperary who participate in their civic duty to vote also participate as volunteers in civil society, and this correlation was also further compounded by the data from the ED of Inch.

The Irish State and EU funded community and voluntary sector infrastructure in North Tipperary has been noted as beneficial by the community leaders in Inch, with CAVA being commented as a good source of information for both members and non-members alike.

Several factors that influence the variance of civil society participation and volunteerism were indicated at the ED level. Barriers of participation have been highlighted such as the centralisation of the decision-making institutions with regards to some funding applications. However, such frustration does not affect the participation volunteers as voters as local representatives have been seen to step in and help with the funding procedure. This shows that localism is a contributing factor to civil society participation at the

local level. The community maintains active citizenship as it was noted that unless the community actively engages in its own needs such as gaining funding (no funding will be received unless actively sought) very little engagement would occur from exogenous features further impressing the importance of the local with regards to civil society participation and volunteerism.

Chapter 8: Civil Society, Volunteerism & Space

8.1 Introduction

This research aimed to spatially analyse the patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism and the factors that influence these in Ireland, with a focus on the case study regions of Limerick City and North Tipperary. In order to begin this research project a working definition was needed for the concepts of civil society and volunteerism. As has been noted, such a definition is often difficult due to the varying socio-cultural contexts globally. When such concepts are so intrinsically connected to one's culture and class their definition is based on the personal and political perspective. By bringing these concepts into the Irish landscape, and more specifically the case study areas, they develop very clearly, and this can be seen from the factors and indicators that influence the variance of spatial patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism.

8.2 On a Global Scale

Civil society has evolved as 'a sphere of social interaction between economy and State, composed above all of the intimate sphere (especially the family), the sphere of associations (especially voluntary associations), social movements and forms of public communications... institutionalised and generalised through laws' (Cohen & Arato, 1992:ix).

Boix and Posner (1998) suggest that altruistic giving and volunteering tend to make both the citizens and the bureaucrats of a State more virtuous, making the electorate easier to govern and the elected leaders more effective at governing. Civil society participation is translated through active citizenship and citizen participation, and the factors that were involved in these were grouped into indicators of

participative democracy and representative democracy. Research has shown that a person is not solely involved in one participation process at a time a person can be involved in participation from the local up to the supranational. The persons level in the participation process (of the ladder) will vary depending on the different geographic levels, these vary from being high up on the ladder of participation at home to being further down the ladder in the supranational structure of the EU.

Brooks (2002) identified these links between trust in the government, confidence in the government, government effectiveness and civic participation, and at the EU level correlations were discovered between some indicators of representative and participative democracy, significant positive correlations exist between the two indicators of representative democracy – levels of trust in institutions of governance and voter participation in plebiscites, these correlations ranged between the 2009 European Parliament elections (/Trust in National Parliament 2009: $R=.437$ and $P<.05$), National Parliamentary elections (Mean Voter Turnout in National Parliamentary Elections from 1990/Trust in National Government 2009: $R=.627$ and $P<.01$), Presidential elections (Mean Voter Turnout in Presidential Elections from 1970/Trust in National Parliament 2009: $R=.654$ and $P<.05$), and local/municipal elections (Mean Voter Turnout in Municipal Election from 1990/Trust in National Parliament 2009: $R=.514$ and $P<.05$). This shows that as the level of trust in the institutions of governance increases so too does the level of voter participation (Boix & Posner, 1998; Brehm & Rahn, 1997; Brooks & Lewis, 2001).

Significant statistical relationships can also be seen between indicators of representative and participative democracy. With voter turnout in national parliamentary elections positively correlating with voluntary participation/membership of a voluntary organisation (Pearson's

R=.418; P=.030). Showing that those who participate in their civic duty to vote also participate as volunteers within civil society (Brooks, 2002; Tamvaki, 2009).

The map of voluntary activity across the EU, shows that other factors are in play, other than those previously identified, as a perfect relationship (Cramer's $V=1.000$) exists with levels of State decentralisation and subsidiarity in decision-making and a near perfect relationship, with the European Social Model (Cramer's $V=.950$), this in part explains the East-West divide seen on the maps. This echoes the great gap between East and West that exists in the socio-economic sphere, as human, cultural and social capital are intrinsically tied to civil society participation.

8.3 In the Irish Landscape

Civil society or the community and voluntary sector in Ireland has in the past lacked a precise description and clear boundaries due to the diversity of community and voluntary organisations that exist (Faughnan, 1990). As the relationship with the Irish State develops, largely in part to the availability of funding for service provision, more organisations are encouraged to enter into the definition of a 'social/charitable group', and this is reflected in the types of organisations that volunteers opted for in 2006 (CSO, 2006).

The majority of current collective action in Ireland looks towards the collective identities and commonalities generated by the local community rather than of class or gender identities (Tovey & Share, 2000). This 'urge towards community' has a long history in Ireland, as it can be traced back to the self-help strategies of Muintir na Tíre in the 1930s (Devereux, 1988) and to the influence of Catholic corporatism in the early decades of the last century (Tovey & Share, 2000). Anthropologists have believed that Ireland's population was a

‘distinctive and characteristic’ variant of civilization in Western Europe where individuals were bound to their family and locality (Arensberg & Kimball, 1940). However, by the end of the 20th century the Irish people had developed a much stronger sense of their individual rights, making decisions affecting their own lives (Byrne et al., 2001).

Volunteering and getting involved in your community through a sporting organisation was a close second, in 2006, after the social/charitable groups for voluntary involvement. This is largely due in part to the presence of the Gaelic Athletics Association (GAA). When Ireland gained its independence from the UK, there was a large push towards nationalism and localism, and the GAA was bolstered by this push as people would identify with their parish and their local GAA club. This endogenous approach has, in effect, created an ‘us-vs.-them’ outlook, and the community and voluntary sector has been moulded around this stance, with such groups as Muintir na Tíre developing in this landscape.

In recent years this outlook has been changing as State led programmes were being introduced, and with the introduction of funding leading to a more central exogenous styling in the community and voluntary sector. This centralisation was commented upon by some members in the community leaders’ focus group as frustrating as they were of the opinion that local matters should be decided upon locally. This viewpoint is furthered by the State as it exercises its legislative capacities to define the frameworks for operation of all actors within the public sphere (including civil society) and due to these legal regulations the State enjoys a privileged position where it lays down rules that civil society organisations must follow, creating a privileged but limited role for the State (Zimmer, 2010), suggesting that on Arnstein’s (1969) ladder of participation, one could suggest that we sit on the rung of tokenism.

Participation in the General election held in the year closest (2007) to that of the 2006 Census of Population show that voter turnout is positively linked with voluntary activity participation (Pearson's $R=.691$; $P=.000$), and this strong correlation was investigated at the level of the Dáil Constituency. These statistical relationships at the Irish level link in with those found at the European level which showed that people who participate in voting also participate as volunteers. When investigating the spatial distributions of the indicators of representative and participative democracy, indicators were then mapped in order to visualise if such spatial patterns existed. From these maps it was concluded that a 'Rural-Urban' high-low voter turnout and volunteerism continuum was seen in the spatial distribution, thus showing the main political geography determinants of a vibrant civil society at national level. This rural-urban divide seen on the maps can be attributed in part to the 'urge towards community' foundations that the Irish community and voluntary sector has developed from, as rural areas tend to display better social capital (Putnam, 2000).

8.4 The case in Limerick City

In Limerick City, when the indicators for participative and representative democracy were mapped the spatial patterns, within the urban landscape, suggested that resident mobility (length of time resident in a community) and the persistent deprivation of an area influence the spatial distribution of those who participate in civil society across the City (Humphreys & Dineen, 2007). However, the low level of voluntary activity participation in Limerick City (lowest in Ireland at 13.1%) is not as a result of the absence of an institutional framework as there is extensive community and voluntary infrastructure in place across the City.

The presence of an extensive community and voluntary sector infrastructure in Limerick City is in part related to its position as the regional capital and the economic core of the Mid-Western Region. But it is also linked to the State which provides significant funding to the community and voluntary sector through various channels: through the national government departments, through local government and through semi-state and state agencies. Through EU supports and schemes there has been an implementation of supports and funding for the community and voluntary sector which can be found. The EU and the Irish State have co-funded the LEADER companies and Area-Based Partnerships. There is historical lack of legislation in Ireland and the funding relationship between the state and voluntary organisations has mainly focused on health and social service provision, of which Limerick is a classic example. A lot of this infrastructure has been developed exogenously, the ‘top-down’ approach is characteristic of the decision making process as the Irish government have a “steadfast reluctance to devolve power from the centre” (McDonagh, 2001:208).

Other Local Partnership Schemes including Family Resource Centres (FRCs) and Community Development Programmes (CDPs) located in the large residential estates in Limerick City are run under the auspices of the Department of Social Welfare. All of these initiatives, while State funded are managed by local community groups.

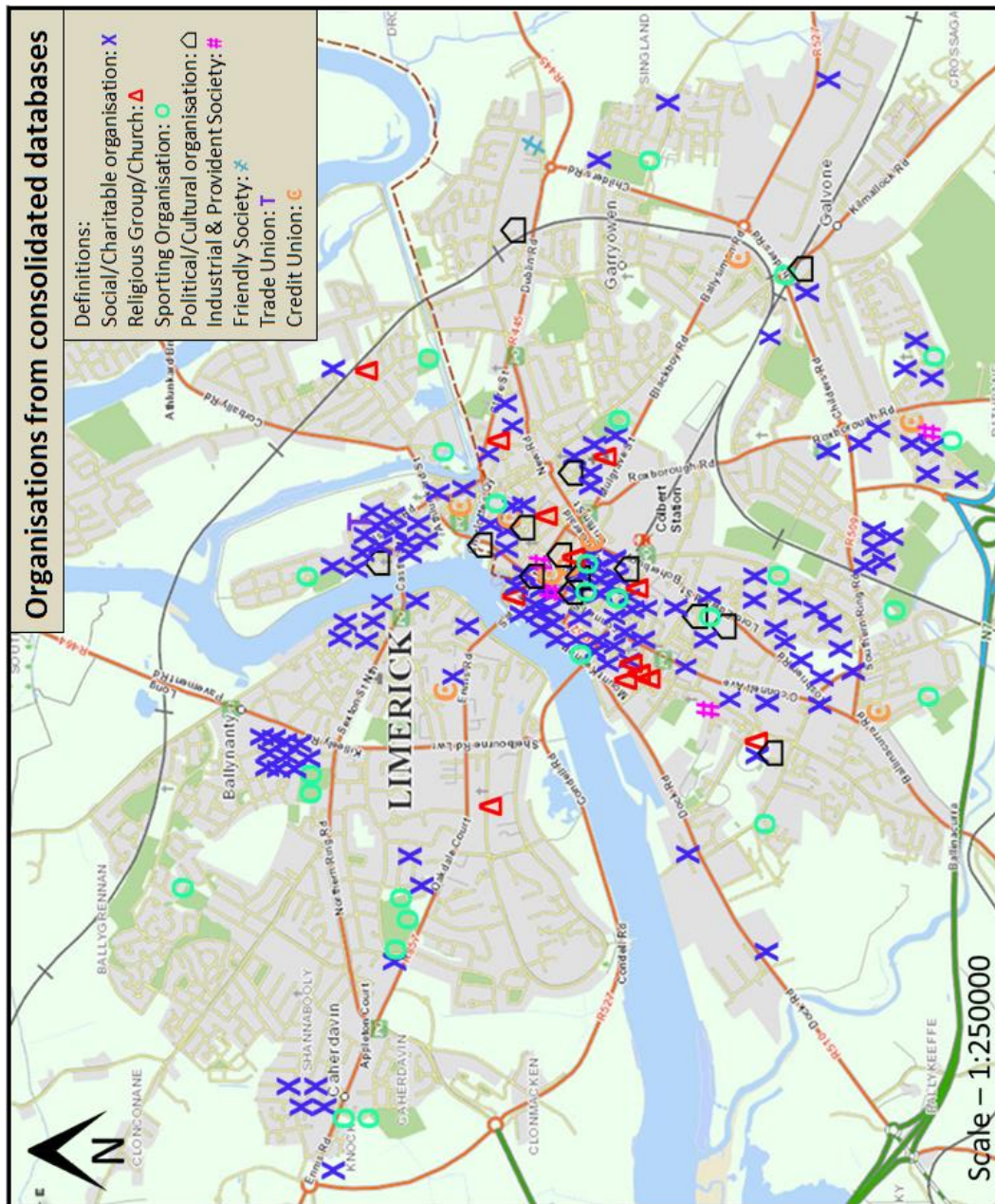
Social Inclusion Partnerships started in Ireland through the development of the ‘Local Development and Social Inclusion Partnerships’ (LDSIP) which were established in the most disadvantaged urban and rural areas. These partnerships are characterised by the promotion of social inclusion as they targeted their resources at the most disadvantaged in their communities. Through social inclusion, these partnerships/organisations were built

on the foundations of the community development movements which had emerged in the cities in the 1980s. To further the promotion of social inclusion in disadvantaged urban communities the Irish government in 2001 targeted areas in the main urban to be the focus of the 'Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development' (RAPID) programme. Three of the twenty five designated RAPID areas nationally were identified in Limerick City.

There is a significant negative statistical relationship between the concentration of community and voluntary groups in an ED and the level of voter turnout for the 2009 Local/European Elections (Pearson's $R = -.538$; $R = .000$). This moderate negative correlation shows that as voter participation levels increase, the number of community and voluntary groups' present decrease in an area; the pattern is the mirror opposite to the pattern seen in voter turnout, this is most likely due to the greater concentration of groups in the more socially deprived areas, that have been specifically targeted by State and EU funding.

The majority of the community and voluntary sector infrastructure in Limerick City is located around the areas within the RAPID programme. This pattern can be seen in **Map 8.4-1** as a high concentration of organisations, mainly social/charitable groups can be found within RAPID communities. Through an amalgamation of different databases 200 different community and voluntary organisations were found operating within Limerick City. The main type/category of community and voluntary organisation found within the community and voluntary landscape of Limerick city was that of the social/charitable organisation, with 70% of all the listed organisations falling into this category. This figure can be linked into the 2006 National Census of Population statistics where social and charitable work have more people who are solely involved in one type of voluntary activity, than any other type of voluntary activity.

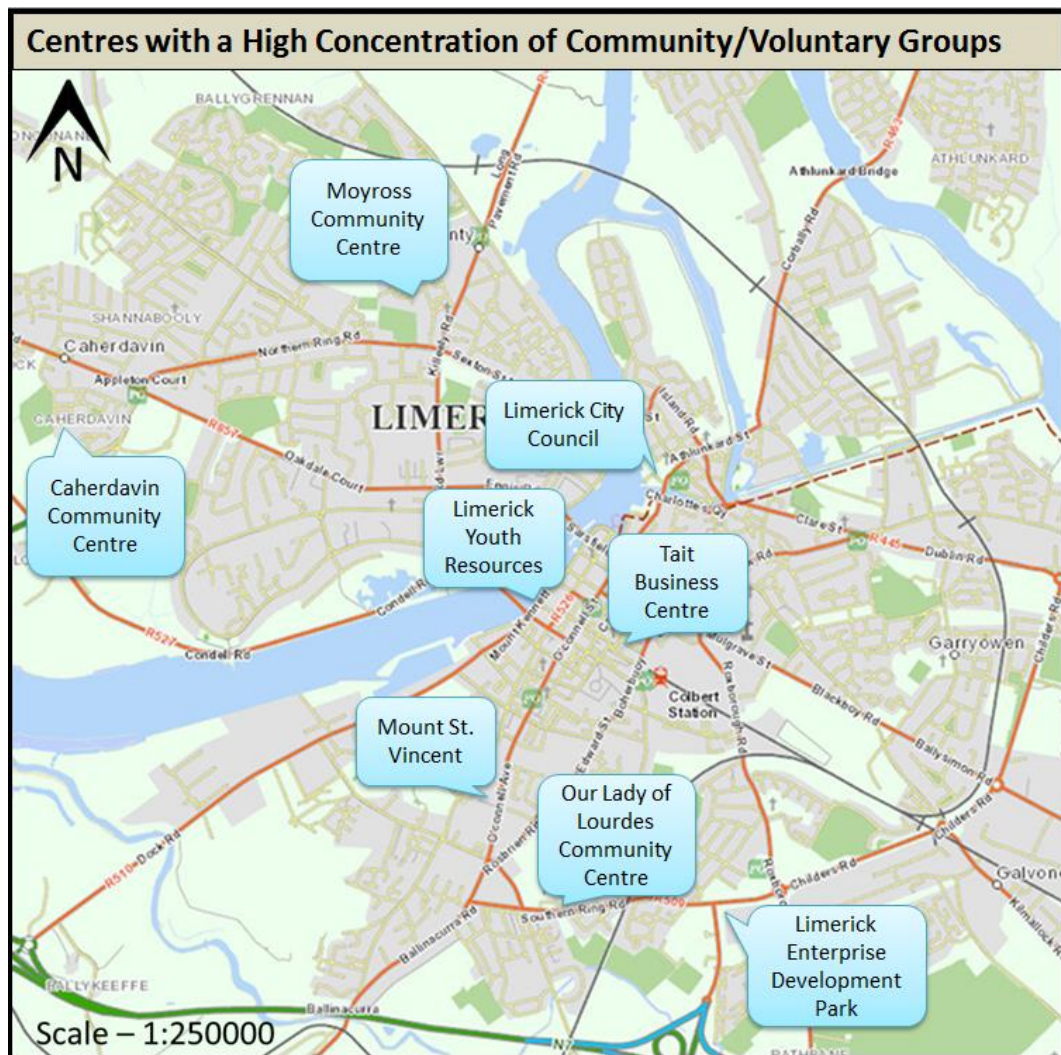
Map 8.4-1: Map from consolidated databases of community & voluntary groups within Limerick City – Appendix D



Another pattern can be seen arising from this map, this concentration can be attributed to the presence of office/administration space found within the city centre, and also due to its centrality and ease of access as the majority of city public transport feed into the city centre, therefore, it is a suitable administration hub for community and voluntary organisations to be located. There exist centres with a high concentration of community and voluntary groups (**Map 8.4-2**). These

centres tend to house groups that are similar in nature (social/charitable) and are located throughout the City and not just in RAPID designated areas. These centres give service users and volunteers alike a focal point for ease of access and the organisations a shared administration point which reduces the cost of financing their operations, especially in a time that funding is being cut back.

Map 8.4-2: Map from consolidated databases of centres with a high concentration of community & voluntary groups within Limerick City – Appendix D



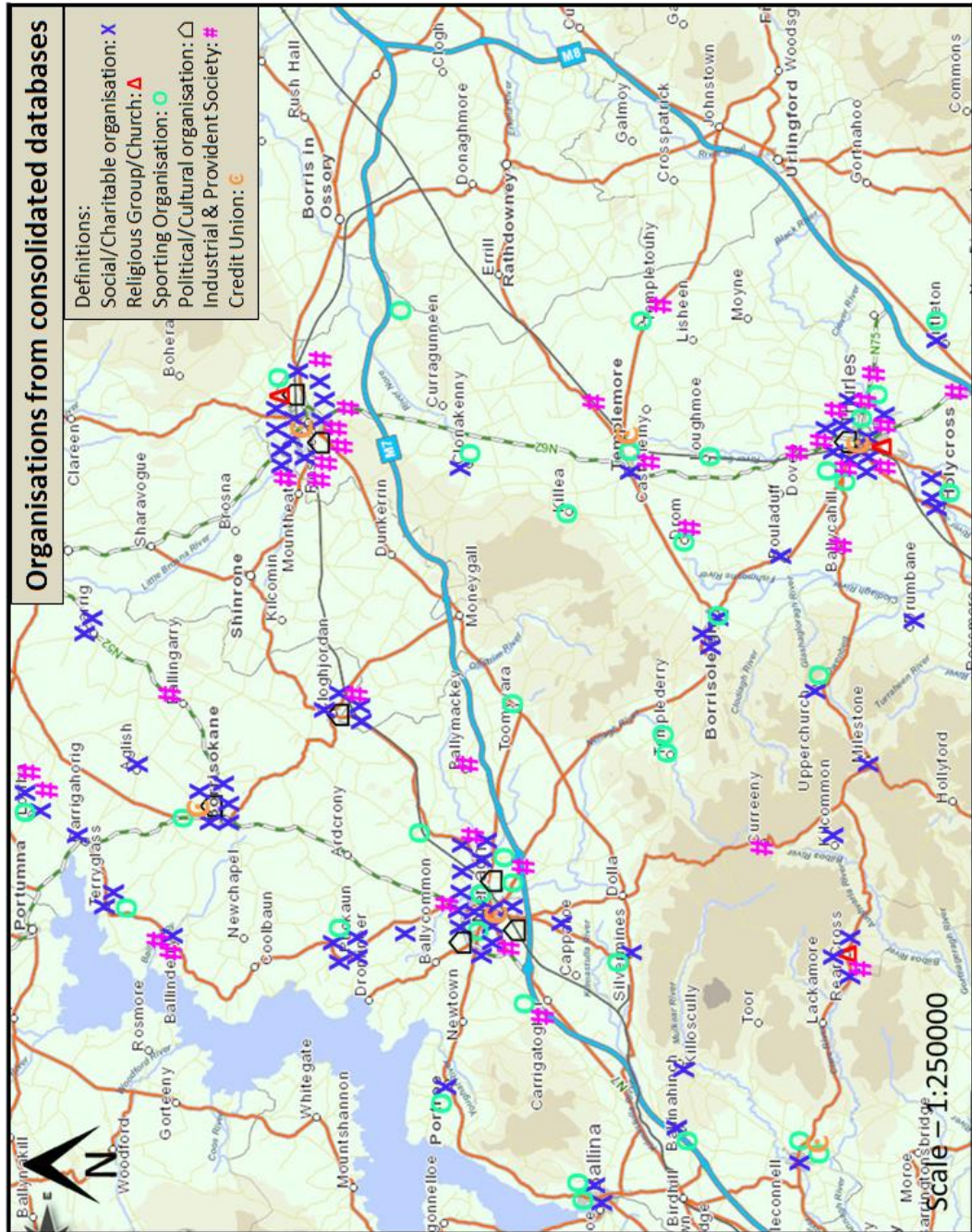
One anomaly was found among the data, and that is the low participation in political or cultural groups, as this type of group is the third numerous (7%) within Limerick City. It can be hypothesised that this is possible due to term used in the Census of Population of

‘Political or Cultural’. This can be linked into the perceived ‘political taboo’ that exists in Ireland as politics is such an emotionally laden topic for some, and may wish to avoid openly identifying themselves as favourable to discussing this.

8.5 The case in North Tipperary

Through an amalgamation of different databases 220 different community and voluntary organisations were found operating within North Tipperary (**Map 8.5-1**). The majority of these organisations are situated within urban settlements in North Tipperary of Thurles, Nenagh, Templemore, Borrisokane and Roscrea. This pattern of concentration can be due to these areas being administrative centres for their surrounding hinterland, and are located on the main thoroughfares in the County, giving ease of access to service users. However, some rural areas in North Tipperary also have high numbers of community and voluntary organisations, such as the villages of Upperchurch and Drombane found along the Old Cork Road (Limerick to Thurles), Terryglass found on the shore of Lough Derg, and Cloughjordan, a village that holds the claim of Ireland’s first ‘Eco Village’, found along the Limerick-Ballybrophy railway line.

Map 8.5-1: Map from consolidated databases of community & voluntary groups within North Tipperary – Appendix E



North Tipperary reflects the trend that was seen nationally, as the main type/category of community and voluntary organisation found within the community and voluntary landscape of North Tipperary was that of the social/charitable organisation, with 48% of all the listed organisations falling into this category. The second most frequent type

of voluntary and community group is that of a sporting organisation, and in the 2006 National Census of Population statistics sporting related voluntary work had more people who were solely involved in one type of voluntary activity, than any other type of voluntary activity (7% of population of North Tipperary over 15 years).

While North Tipperary scores the highest in the country for the indicator of participative democracy (voluntary activity – 19.2%) and is in the top high levels for voter turnout (representative democracy), no significant statistical relationship existed between the indicators of representative and participative democracy within this rural landscape. This lack of a correlation is important as local factors have served to reduce the relationship seen at the various geographic levels between these indicators. In relation to voter turnout patterns in North Tipperary the major localised factors are those of localism, personalism and distance from the polling station for rural populations (Weeks, 2011; Kavanagh, 2002). The predominant rural locality of North Tipperary leads to variance in such factors as the availability of transportation and the hours travelled for employment (ibid.) for both voter turnout and voluntary participation. Voluntary participation varies based on the level of integration into a community, and into community and voluntary groups of a volunteer (Gidron, 1987). These local variables can dilute the correlation of the patterns between indicators of participative and representative democracy, and in the case of North Tipperary dissolve the relationship seen at the other geographic levels.

When the indicators of representative and participative democracy were mapped to ascertain if any spatial pattern existed, an ‘East-West’ ‘Rural-Urban’ high-low divide could be seen for voter turnout and volunteerism across the County. A variance in the volunteerism pattern could also be seen amongst the rural areas, where the more

disadvantaged areas (those formally designated CLÁR areas) having lower levels of voluntary activity participation (weak positive correlation (R=.262; P<.05)).

With an uneven distribution of these effects across the Irish society, leaving some communities who were economically disadvantaged at the start of the economic boom still in the same position (Kirby et al, 2002; Weller, 2008). Bauman (2001:58) noted that ‘the successful ... do not need community’, may be experienced more by some social groups than others in Ireland and that the theory of attachment to local place, and its influence on an individual’s social identity, declining in modern society may not apply equally to different social groups (Tovey & Share, 2000). The 2002 ‘Tipping the balance’ report to the government suggests that Irish people have become “richer, more individualistic and participate less in organised religion, there has been a move away from past values and from commitment to community. Changes in work patterns, increased levels of employment and more women in paid employment were put forward as reasons why people may be taking on shorter volunteer commitments” (National Committee on Volunteering, 2002:68). It has been noted by the focus group that attendance is high when the group is only active seasonally with a specific length of time designated from the outset, such as the case with the Sale of Works Committee. Also specific fundraising events for the different groups tend to attract more people as these are again seasonal and have a set time frame in which the event is organised and run, an example of such an event was the fashion show for the Drom and Inch Senior GAA Club.

8.6 The case in the Local Community (Inch)

Civil society organisations gave communities the means for collective action and community empowerment is an important dimension of the local partnerships between civil society organisations, communities

and the State (Varley & Curtin, 2006). Therefore, an investigation into the civil society landscape at community level was undertaken.

When the voter participation and voluntary participation data were mapped for the case study locations it emerged that North Tipperary had clearer defined communities of volunteerism, when the voter participation and voluntary participation data were mapped for North Tipperary one particular community scored high for participation in forms of representative and participative democracy, the community of Inch. Significant statistical relationships were found to exist in the community of Inch between levels of trust in institutions of governance and voter participation, and these relationship found at the local level of Inch reflect those found at European level.

Community and voluntary activity has been seen by researchers and commentators as an important cog in the Irish way of life over the last century. When taking note of the emergence of these community and voluntary groups/initiatives in Ireland it can be said that they were born of a time of 'crisis circumstances' (Varley & Curtin, 2002). This was the case for the majority of community and voluntary groups in Inch as they were set up to 'get things done', instead of relying solely on external bodies such as the County Council. This reflects the government's idea of the community and voluntary sector as 'one which encourages people and communities to look after their own needs – very often in partnership with statutory agencies – but without depending on the State to meet all needs' (Irish Government, 2000: 10).

The types of community and voluntary groups that work within Inch reflect that of the trend seen in North Tipperary, from the consolidated databases of community and voluntary organisations (**Appendix E**), as a whole with the majority of the community and voluntary groups falling into the category of social or charitable groups (58%), overall

social or charitable groups are in the majority, and it is suggested that this definition be divided up into clearer sub-sections, to provide a clear picture of the community and voluntary groups in the landscape.

This centralisation has been highlighted as a barrier and cause for frustration on behalf of the community volunteers. However, these experiences in dealing with decision-making institutions does not impede on their participation as voters, due to the help received from local representatives, and as active citizens, as it was noted by the community leaders that unless the community goes actively searching for funding no funding will be attained.

Centralisation has led to other barriers experienced by community and voluntary organisations and volunteers alike, such as insurance, health and safety, Garda vetting, and funding regulations. A particular note of contention in the community steams from the redevelopment of Inch Community Hall, in order to be eligible for funding the hall had to change from parochial ownership to ownership by the hall committee company, therefore changing the original essence of the project through privatisation by turning the committee into a form of a property management company.

8.7 Conclusion

Community and voluntary organisations form an integral part of the social, economic and civic fabric of life within Ireland. There is a long history in Ireland of the development of these organisations, with some movements dating back to the 18th Century. Structured community and voluntary activity is something which has been part the Irish way of life over the last century and it has gone through several phases over that time that has contributed to and arisen from the economic, political, religious, and social sectors in both urban and rural areas (Keating, 2010).

With the accession into the EU, and increased funding from the State, the community development movement expanded and in the 1980s and 1990s started tackling socio-economic problems such as unemployment and inequality for specific areas and marginalised social groupings such as people with disabilities and the Traveller community. This development led to the founding of social partnership where local area partnerships and national community development support programmes were set up, characterised by the mainstreaming of community development initiatives through national and EU programmes (Keating, 2010).

Civil society participation and volunteerism trends divide across social, political, cultural, and economic lines. This can be seen from the East-West divide at the supranational level of the EU, where the subsidiarity of state structure and the type of welfare state in place impacts on the participation process. These divisions can be further examined at the national level of the Irish State, where a Rural-Urban divide was seen in the participation process. This is in part due to the foundations that the community and voluntary sector developed upon, but also linked to the level mobility of those within the communities, such as the case in the Limerick City landscape. This divide was also evident in North Tipperary, where the towns served as the administration centres for organisations. At the local level of the community, the lines of divide were less socio-economic and more in keeping with political measures such as centralisation, bureaucracy, and funding regimes.

From this spatial analysis the patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism, and the factors that influence these at the various geographic levels have been found to have socio-political, socio-cultural and socio-economic connections, making the local landscape and

community very relevant to civil society participation and volunteerism.

The roles of the community and voluntary sector are constantly changing. These changes have mainly come about from the changes made by the State in policy and legislation. Through their interactions civil society and the State can work to further improve these interactions so that the changes brought about by amendments can help improve and benefit the society for whom they serve and participate in.

Chapter 9: Conclusion

9.1 Introduction

The aim of this research project was to profile the levels and changes in the spatial patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism and to identify the factors that influence these in Ireland, with a focus on the selected case study locations of Limerick City and North Tipperary.

This aim was achieved through answering the following research questions:

- How have the concepts of civil society participation and volunteerism developed globally?
- How can these concepts be characterised in the landscape of Ireland?
- What are the factors and indicators that influence the variance of civil society participation and volunteerism?
- What are the spatial patterns of civil society participation and volunteerism at different geographic levels?

These objectives are achieved through an investigation of the literature, geographical analyses of data pertaining to the factors that influence civil society participation, and fieldwork.

9.2 Summary of Thesis

9.2.1 Findings at the EU Level

In order to ascertain if there were any statistical relationships between representative and participative democracy, different indicators of these strands of democracy were investigated. These indicators were then mapped in order to visualise if there were spatial patterns that existed for representative and participative democracy.

Significant statistical relationships have been found to exist between the indicators of representative and participative democracy, and these relationships can be seen in **Table 9.2-1**.

Table 9.2-1: The statistical relationships between indicators of representative & participative democracy that exist at EU level

At EU Member State Level										
Indicators of Representative and Participative Democracy	Voting in Presidential Election	Voting in Parliamentary Election	Voting in Municipal / Local Election	Level of Trust in EU	Level of Trust in European Parliament	Level of Trust in Government	Level of Trust in Parliament	Territorial Organisation	European Social Model	Membership of Voluntary Organisation
Voting in Presidential Election		R=.606 P=.037	R=.808 P=.028				R=.641 P=.025	V=1.000	V=1.000	
Voting in Parliamentary Election	R=.606 P=.037		R=.716 P=.001			R=.582 P=.005	R=.553 P=.003	V=1.000	V=1.000	R=.418 P=.030
Voting in Municipal / Local Election	R=.808 P=.028	R=.716 P=.001		R=.446 P=.073				V=1.000	V=1.000	
Level of Trust in EU			R=.446 P=.073		R=.814 P=.000			V=.887	V=.908	
Level of Trust in European Parliament				R=.814 P=.000				V=.786	V=.781	
Level of Trust in Government		R=.582 P=.005					R=.872 P=.000	V=.907	V=.896	R=.568 P=.002
Level of Trust in Parliament	R=.641 P=.025	R=.553 P=.003				R=.872 P=.000		V=.913	V=.860	R=.655 P=.000
Territorial Organisation	V=1.000	V=1.000	V=1.000	V=.887	V=.786	V=.907	V=.913		V=.600	V=1.000
European Social Model	V=1.000	V=1.000	V=1.000	V=.908	V=.781	V=.896	V=.860	V=.600		V=.950
Membership of Voluntary Organisation		R=.418 P=.030				R=.568 P=.002	R=.655 P=.000	V=1.000	V=.950	

As can be seen from the significant Pearson's R correlations outlined in **Table 9.2-1**, there is a significant positive correlations between the two indicators of representative democracy – levels of trust in institutions of governance and voter participation in plebiscites. This shows that as the level of trust in the institutions of governance increases so too does the level of voter participation (Boix & Posner, 1998; Brehm & Rahn, 1997; Brooks & Lewis, 2001).

Significant statistical relationships can also be seen between indicators of representative and participative democracy. With voter turnout in national parliamentary elections correlating positively with voluntary participation/membership of a voluntary organisation (Pearson's R=.418; P=.030) (**Table 9.2-1**). Levels of trust in national institutions

of governance also have positive correlations with volunteerism levels. Showing that those who participate in their civic duty to vote also participate as volunteers within civil society (Brooks, 2002; Tamvaki, 2009).

The spatial distribution across the map of the indicators of representative and participative democracy shows significant statistical relationships with indicators of spatial association – levels of State decentralisation and subsidiarity in decision-making, and the European Social Model that each country prescribes to. Each indicator of spatial association shows a perfect/near perfect relationship to the indicator of representative and participative democracy. Through the Cramer's V tests, the types of territorial organisation shows near perfect relationships with levels of institutional trust; and perfect relationships exist with voting turnout at the different political levels of plebiscites and the European Social Model.

Volunteerism levels also have significant statistical relationships with the indicators of spatial association. A perfect relationship (Cramer's $V=1.000$) exists with levels of State decentralisation and subsidiarity in decision-making and a near perfect relationship, with the European Social Model (Cramer's $V=.950$). These significant statistical relationships with indicators of spatial association show how participation in representative (voter turnout and levels of trust in institutions of governance) and participative (voluntary activity) democracy is spatially distributed. The indicators investigated in **Table 9.2-1** show the main political geography determinants of a vibrant civil society at the European level.

9.2.2 Findings at the Irish Level

Following on from the investigation at the European level of the statistical relationships between representative and participative

democracy, and their spatial associations, an investigation was conducted at Irish level. These indicators were then mapped in order to visualise if there were spatial patterns that existed for representative and participative democracy within Ireland.

Table 9.2-2: The statistical relationships between indicators of representative & participative democracy at the Irish Constituency level

At the Level of the Irish State		
Indicators of Representative and Participative Democracy	Voting in Parliamentary Election	Membership of Voluntary Organisation
Voting in Parliamentary Election		R=.691 P=.000
Membership of Voluntary Organisation	R=.691 P=.000	
2007 General Elections/2006 Volunteer @ Irish Constituency Level		

As can be seen from **Table 9.2-2** a strong significant statistical relationship exists at the level of the Irish State between the indicators of representative and participative democracy. Participation in the General election held in the year closest (2007) to that of the 2006 Census of Population show that voter turnout is positively linked with voluntary activity participation (Pearson's $R=.691$; $P=.000$), and this strong correlation was investigated at the level of the Dáil Constituency. This link is further compounded by a moderate correlation at the level of the Local Authority where participation in the Local election held in the year closest (2004) to that of the 2006 Census of Population show that voter turnout is again positively linked

with voluntary activity participation (Pearson's $R=.455$; $P=.007$) (Table 9.2-3).

Table 9.2-3: The statistical relationships between indicators of representative & participative democracy at the Irish Local Authority level

At the Level of the Irish State		
Indicators of Representative and Participative Democracy	Voting in Municipal / Local Election	Membership of Voluntary Organisation
Voting in Municipal / Local Election		$R=.455$ $P=.007$
Membership of Voluntary Organisation	$R=.455$ $P=.007$	
2004 Local Elctions/2006 Volunteer @ Local Authority Area Level		

These statistical relationships at the Irish level link in with those found at the European level which showed that people who participate in voting also participate as volunteers. When investigating the spatial distributions of the indicators of representative and participative democracy, indicators were then mapped in order to visualise if such spatial patterns existed. From these maps it was concluded that a 'Rural-Urban' high-low voter turnout and volunteerism continuum was seen in the spatial distribution, thus showing the main political geography determinants of a vibrant civil society at national level.

9.2.3 Findings at the Level of the Case Study Locations

In order to fully investigate the 'Rural-Urban' high-low voter turnout and volunteerism continuum spatial distribution findings that resulted

from the investigation of indicators of representative and participative democracy at the Irish level, an investigation at ED level for the same indicators was conducted for the selected case study areas of Limerick City and North Tipperary. At this level a significant positive correlation was discovered in Limerick City between the indicators of representative and participative democracy (Pearson's $R=.463$; $P=.003$), however, no such correlation was discovered in North Tipperary (Table 9.2-4).

Table 9.2-4: The statistical relationships between indicators of representative & participative democracy (at ED level) that exist in Limerick City & North Tipperary

	Limerick City		North Tipperary	
	Voting in Local Election	Membership of Voluntary Organisation	Voting in Local Election	Membership of Voluntary Organisation
Indicators of Representative and Participative Democracy				
Voting in Municipal / Local Election		$R=.463$ $P=.003$		
Membership of Voluntary Organisation	$R=.463$ $P=.003$			

In Limerick City, when these indicators were mapped the spatial patterns, within the urban landscape, suggested that resident mobility (length of time resident in a community) and the persistent deprivation of an area influence the spatial distribution of those who participate in civil society across the City (Humphreys & Dineen, 2007). However, the low level of voluntary activity participation in Limerick City (lowest in Ireland at 13.1%) is not as a result of the absence of an institutional framework as there is extensive community and voluntary infrastructure in place across the City.

While North Tipperary scores the highest in the country for the indicator of participative democracy (voluntary activity – 19.2%) and is in the top high levels for voter turnout (representative democracy), no significant statistical relationship existed between the indicators of representative and participative democracy. This lack of a correlation is important as local factors have served to reduce the relationship seen at the various geographic levels between these indicators. Voter turnout patterns in North Tipperary are influenced by localism and personalism due to the candidates (representatives from the locality) that run for elections, most notably, the independent candidates (Weeks, 2011). The location of the polling stations is also a local factor that influences voter turnout patterns (Kavanagh, 2002). Voluntary participation patterns along with voter turnout patterns are also influenced by the predominant rural locality of North Tipperary which leads to a variance been seen in such factors as the availability of transportation and the hours travelled for employment (ibid.). Voluntary participation patterns can also vary due to the level of integration a volunteer has into a community, and into community and voluntary groups for which they volunteer (Gidron, 1987). Informal volunteering is not well documented in Ireland, and these participation figures are not included in the 2006 Census of Population data. The lack of data on undocumented and informal voluntary participation results in further loosening the correlation between indicators of participative and representative democracy at the local level. Therefore, local variables can dilute the correlation of the patterns seen between the indicators of participative and representative democracy, and in the case of North Tipperary at ED level, suppress the relationship that is seen at the other geographic levels.

However, when these indicators were mapped to ascertain if any spatial pattern existed, an ‘East-West’ ‘Rural-Urban’ high-low divide

could be seen for voter turnout and volunteerism across the County. A variance in the volunteerism pattern could also be seen amongst the rural areas, where the more disadvantaged areas (those formally designated CLÁR areas) having lower levels of voluntary activity participation.

The presence, and indeed the absence, of statistical relationships between the indicators of representative and participative democracy warranted further investigation into indicators of spatial association, and through the mapping these indicators patterns emerged showing the main political geography determinants of a vibrant civil society at local level of the case study locations.

9.2.4 Findings at the Local level of the Community of Inch

Drawing from these findings it can be concluded that there statistical relationships between representative and participative democracy and elements thereof, and spatial patterns exist within these relationships. Moving on from this, it can be stated that those who participate in their civic duty to vote also participate as volunteers in civil society, and this participation is spatially distributed. The main political geography determinants of a vibrant civil society at European, national and local levels have also been identified.

The factors and indicators that influence the participation process were investigated at the local level of the community of Inch, North Tipperary. A community in North Tipperary was chosen as there were clear communities of volunteerism within this case study location. Before the last research question could be addressed an investigation into the statistical relationships within representative democracy was conducted. The significant statistical relationships that have been found at this geographic level can be seen in **Table 9.2-5**.

Table 9.2-5: The statistical relationships within indicators of representative democracy in Inch (n=50) (Inch Community Volunteers Questionnaire Face-to-Face Survey)

In Inch							
Indicators of Representative and Participative Democracy	Voting in Presidential Election	Voting in Parliamentary Election	Voting in Municipal / Local Election	Level of Trust in EU	Level of Trust in European Parliament	Level of Trust in Government	Level of Trust in Parliament
Voting in Presidential Election		V=.1.000	V=.484	V=.565		V=.565	V=.484
Voting in Parliamentary Election	V=.1.000		V=.484	V=.565		V=.565	V=.484
Voting in Municipal / Local Election	V=.484	V=.484		V=.234	V=.389	V=.570	V=.727
Level of Trust in EU	V=.565	V=.565	V=.234		V=.333	V=.297	V=.234
Level of Trust in European Parliament			V=.389	V=.333		V=.565	V=.484
Level of Trust in Government	V=.565	V=.565	V=.570	V=.297	V=.565		V=.674
Level of Trust in Parliament	V=.484	V=.484	V=.727	V=.234	V=.484	V=.674	

As can be seen from **Table 9.2-5** significant statistical relationships exist between levels of trust in institutions of governance and voter participation, and these relationship found at the local level of Inch reflect those found at European level. As all the volunteer questionnaire survey participants were volunteerism, membership of voluntary organisations was a constant variable and statistical analysis could not be conducted. However, it can be concluded from this table that those who volunteer, also participate in ballots, which in turn increases the levels of trust for institutions of governance, therefore showing that those in the community level who turnout to vote also volunteer, and this sustains their perception of trust in decision-making institutions.

The experiences of the community volunteers in dealing with decision-making institutions does not impede on their participation as voters

and as active citizens, however, these experiences harbour a lot of frustration on behalf of the community volunteers. The local community of Inch and the community leaders understand the benefits that the Irish State and EU have put forward for the community and voluntary sector, but frustrations have arisen through funding applications, with centralisation being highlighted as a barrier and cause for frustration. Local representatives have been seen to step in and help with the funding procedure, and in dealings within decision-making institutions, and this further improves on levels of trust, and voting participation. The community maintains its active citizenship as it was noted by the community leaders that unless the community goes actively searching for funding no funding will be attained.

9.3 Implications of Findings & Future Research Prospects

From the findings at the different geographic levels, it can be noted that one of the main political determinants of a vibrant civil society, is that of the level of State decentralisation and subsidiarity in decision-making. The further a State transfers its powers to local government the more active its citizens are in voting participation and voluntary activity, leading to a more vibrant civil society.

In the case of Ireland literature has noted that there exists a characteristic ‘top-down’ approach in the decision making process, with a noted reluctance to regionalise power from the seat of Irish government. Yet even within this stance of centrality, civil society participation has been found within communities in Ireland who have adopted an endogenous model for civil society in order to work cohesively in the vertical structures developed by the State. Therefore, this suggests that communities display a more vibrant civil society (higher levels of civil society participation and volunteerism) when the

initiative is taking by them at the grassroots level and then facilitated by the State, be it through partnership or funding.

There is also no complete definitive database of volunteer organisations in Ireland. The majority of organisations are small and sometimes fleeting, however through their research the Centre for Nonprofit Management identified at least 24,000 non-profit organisations operating in Ireland (Donoghue et al., 2006; Velthuis, 2010). While a sizeable list of community and voluntary groups were discovered in Limerick City and North Tipperary after amalgamating the different databases together, it must be noted that not all these databases contained up to date information, e.g. the 2008 Citizen's Information Volunteer Booklet. Another point to note is that registration for the Limerick City Community and Voluntary Forum and CAVA database is on voluntary basis, if a group did not perceive these fora as beneficial then they may choose not to register, highlighting the shortcomings of this database, and the possibility that it may be exclusionary to certain groups, due to their perception and/knowledge of the fora.

From the amalgamation of the different databases of community and voluntary groups, three community and voluntary groups were found working within the ED of Inch. However, on further investigation 19 different community and voluntary groups were discovered working within the community of Inch, therefore it is suggested that a research project be put in place to investigate all community and voluntary groups existing within the local landscape and classify them by better defined groupings, it was noted that the term sociable/charitable was too board a term, and hid a plethora of different groups under its guise.

9.4 Recommendations

9.4.1 Community and Voluntary Organisations

Community and voluntary organisations need to engage further with the Irish State and EU funded infrastructure already in place in the community and voluntary sector in Ireland. By becoming more active members (in such structures as community and voluntary fora e.g. CAVA), outside the sole concern of funding applications, organisations can have more impact on the consultation of policy development through the CDB process. Through this consultation barriers towards civil society participation and volunteers can be highlighted and changed through the facilitation of the infrastructure, therefore leading to a more informed policy development at the level of the Irish State.

9.4.2 Policy-makers

A centralised approach has been found as a deterring factor in relation to civil society participation and volunteerism on all geographic levels investigated in this research project. Therefore, a more regionalised approach in view to policy development and community and voluntary sector infrastructure implementation is recommended. This will reduce the frustrations/barriers experienced by community and voluntary organisations, especially in relation to funding applications, thus leading to more engagement by localised decision-making institutions with the organisations further encouraging participation and trust in the governance structure.

Appendix A

Inch Community & Voluntary Group Questionnaire Postal Survey



COLÁISTE MUIRE GAN SMÁL | MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
- OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH - | - UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK -

My name is Ciara Younge, and I'm a research postgraduate student for the Department of Geography in Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. My area of research is on voluntary activity in North Tipperary and Limerick City. My reason for choosing these areas is because in the 2006 Census, North Tipperary had the highest levels of voluntary activity (19.2%) and Limerick City had the lowest (13.1%), and my research is to investigate why this is the case.

My research in North Tipperary has shown that the community of Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg has the highest levels of voluntary activity in North Tipperary (31.81%). Because of this I'm developing a profile of the different community groups that exist in Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg.

The following questionnaire is to find out information about your community group. If there are any questions that you cannot answer because the information is not in your records, it is perfectly fine, just state 'Not in records' in the questionnaire.

I would like to hold a meeting with a committee member from each group in the Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg to find out the benefits of community groups, and if there are any difficulties faced by community groups. Please give a name of an available committee member, and their contact number.

Name: _____ Contact: _____

1. Name of group?

2. Year group was founded?

3. How many people are registered/regular members of the group?

4. How many group members are male and female?

(Please fill in the number of group members that belong to each gender)

Gender	Number of Members
Male	
Female	

5. How many group members are in the following age groups?

(Please fill in the number of group members that belong to each age group)

Age Group	Number of Members
15 – 24 years	
25 – 44 years	
45 – 65 years	
65 years and over	

6. How long have members been involved in the group?

(Please fill in the number of group members that matches with the length of their membership)

Member for...	Number of Members
less than 1 year	
1 – 5 years	
5 + years	

7. Has the number of group members changed over time?

(Please mark if there has been an Increase (+), Decrease (-), or No Change (=) in the number of group members over the last number of years)

Has the numbers of members changed...	Increased (+) Decreased (-) No Change (=)
in the last year?	
in the last 1 – 5 years?	
In the last 5 – 10 years?	

8. How does the group attract new members?

9. Has the group organised any successful events/projects?

(Please select one of the following)

Yes

No

Does not apply

If yes, how many events were organised?

10. What percentage (%) of group funds came from local fundraising?

11. What percentage (%) of group funds came from external sources (e.g. LEADER; HSE)?

12. How often does the group hold meetings?

13. How often is a new committee elected?

14. Is the group a member of CAVA (North Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum)?

(Please select one of the following)

Yes

No

15. Is the group a member of any other organisation(s)?

(Please select one of the following)

Yes

No

If yes, what is/are the name(s) of organisation(s)?

Thank you for filling out this questionnaire on behalf of your group.

Appendix B

Inch Community Volunteers Questionnaire Face-to-Face Survey



COLÁISTE MUIRE GAN SMÁL | MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
- OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH - | - UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK -

My name is Ciara Younge, and I'm a research postgraduate student for the Department of Geography in Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. My area of research is on voluntary activity in North Tipperary and Limerick City. My reason for choosing these areas is because in the 2006 Census, North Tipperary had the highest levels of voluntary activity (19.2%) and Limerick City had the lowest (13.1%), and my research is to investigate why this is the case.

My research in North Tipperary has shown that the community of Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg has the highest levels of voluntary activity in North Tipperary (31.81%). Because of this I'm developing a profile of the people who volunteer for their community in Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg.

Volunteering is involved in many aspects of community life, whether you are part of a community group, or even just collecting some messages for a neighbour who might not be able to make it to the shop.

The following questionnaire is to find out information about voluntary activity: why people volunteer, what are its benefits, are there any difficulties faced by volunteers, what kind of changes can the government make to be more volunteer friendly, and do people who volunteer also vote.

No identifying information is required.

This questionnaire should take no more than 5 minutes to complete.

1. Please select your gender:

Male

Female

2. Please select you age group:

- 15 – 24 years
- 25 – 44 years
- 45 – 65 years
- 65 years and over

3. What community groups are you a member of?

The following are a list of community groups in Inch. Please tick the group that you are a member of (remember you can tick more than one).

- Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg Tidy Village Committee
- Drom & Inch Juvenile GAA
- Drom & Inch Senior GAA
- Sale of Works Committee
- Inch Community Hall Committee
- Graveyards Committee
- Drom and Inch Camogie Club
- Inch Players Drama Society
- Drom & Inch Youth Club
- Inch National School Board of Management
- Inch National School Parents Association Committee
- Alter Society
- Gun Club
- Whist Club
- Old Road Committee
- Historical Society
- Life Savers Defibrillator Group
- Drom and Inch Scór
- North Tipperary Hospice Drom and Inch Branch
- Other

Please specify:

Appendix C

Community Group Leaders' Focus Group Summary

Volunteering has a positive impact on the community in Inch, as it brings people together. Through volunteering people are kept informed of what is happening in the locality, and social contacts are made with new people and maintained through volunteering. It is considered that there is a strong tradition of volunteering in Inch, and an example of this can be seen at the high attendance at matches. The majority of people end up volunteering in Inch through word of mouth, and it is believed that the younger generations are more inclined to volunteer as the volunteers in Inch lead by example.

Participation of volunteers usually depends on the voluntary tasks. People are generally willing to help out, but most don't like meetings. Those who attend meetings are generally on the committee or are coaxed into attending. Attendance is higher for meetings and/or groups that have a set time-frame and date of completion for a particular task, such as the seasonality of the Sale of Works.

The paperwork in order for a group to function is a major factor in turning people away from volunteering, and this is a barrier to volunteering. People often end up on a group committee without a full understanding of what is involved, and a position on a committee is generally thought of as a job for life. The group committee has a huge responsibility in order to ensure compliance with State regulations, such as that of insurance, health and safety, and child protection regulations. While noted all these regulations are deemed for the good, it's the added hardship and responsibility that deter newcomers to volunteer on a committee.

Further barriers were identified for the individual volunteers such as the insurance contribution, and the Garda vetting procedures as these stop spontaneous volunteering within the community.

Voting and volunteering were believed to be linked, as again there is a strong tradition in the locality in politics in Inch, with some local representatives having come from the community (father of one of the participants).

Funding for groups is received for specific projects only. The community has to come to the funding authorities (North Tipperary County Council and LEADER), and have to justify their request for funding. But it was agreed that the community cannot depend on funding.

The community has experienced frustration when dealing with funding authorities. Two examples were given. An issue arose over the footpath on the main road of the village and the road drainage. The community had brought up these issues with the County Council and no action was made in relation to improving the situation. The community were felt that they were left to do it themselves and applied for funding from the Council, and dealt with the issues on a voluntary basis. Another example is that of the current redevelopment of the community hall. In order to be considered for an application of funding the community had to change the hall membership from that of a parochial ownership to that of the hall committee ownership. The community was not happy with this change as they felt that they were being forced to change to get funding, for a building project that was essential. The community hall project is the first LEADER funded project in Inch.

When dealing with North Tipperary LEADER, it was noted that while it was good for help, the community had to communicate consistently in order to be kept updated on their funding application. This was also a point of frustration and centralisation was seen as a problem in this procedure, as North Tipperary LEADER had to wait to hear back from

Dublin. North Tipperary County Council is considered an easier authority to deal with than North Tipperary LEADER.

A good volunteer is considered someone that is aware of what is happening and what grants may be applicable for the community. CAVA is considered a good source of help in this regard, but North Tipperary LEADER does not advertise grants and funds, and this was seen as a hindrance. Local representatives are an effective way of gaining information, and once initial contact is made with the community, the community then has the opportunity to find out about more grants and funding applications through the local representative.

The FÁS scheme has been considered to have a good job in the community, with specific help with GAA and Tidy Towns mentioned, however, the effectiveness of the scheme depends on person in charge at the time. There was an initial fear that FÁS would end voluntary activity in the community, but this wasn't the case, as volunteering doesn't come from the outside.

Appendix D

List & Locational Maps of Limerick City Community & Voluntary Organisations

Limerick City Community & Voluntary Organisations		
Name	ED	Category
Saint Mary's Cathedral Limerick C/o	Abbey A	Religious/Church
Carabullawn Resident's Association	Abbey A	Social/Charitable
St. Mary's RFC	Abbey A	Sporting
Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association	Abbey B	Friendly Society
Thomond Archaeological & Historical Society	Abbey B	Political/Cultural
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Abbey C	Religious/Church
Bóthar Limited	Abbey C	Social/Charitable
Comhlamh	Abbey C	Social/Charitable
Legal Aid Board	Abbey C	Social/Charitable
St. Bernadette's Credit Union Ltd	Ballinacurra B	Credit Union
Ballinacurra Gaels GAA	Ballinacurra B	Sporting
Young Munster RFC	Ballinacurra B	Sporting
Barnardos	Ballynanty	Social/Charitable
Changing Ireland	Ballynanty	Social/Charitable
Community Development Network Moyross	Ballynanty	Social/Charitable
Corpus Christi Community	Ballynanty	Social/Charitable
Men's SHED Network	Ballynanty	Social/Charitable
Moyross Action Centre	Ballynanty	Social/Charitable
Moyross Tidy Town Committee	Ballynanty	Social/Charitable
National Services Users Executive	Ballynanty	Social/Charitable
Northstar Family Support Project	Ballynanty	Social/Charitable
St. Munchin's Family Resource Centre	Ballynanty	Social/Charitable
Shannon RFC	Ballynanty	Sporting
UL Bohemian RFC	Ballynanty	Sporting
Mayorstone District Credit Union Ltd	Castle A	Credit Union
Volunteer Stroke Scheme	Castle A	Social/Charitable
The CARI Foundation	Castle B	Social/Charitable
St Brigid Media Limited	Castle D	Social/Charitable
Limerick Animal Welfare Limited c/o	Coolraine	Social/Charitable
Limerick Senior Help Line	Coolraine	Social/Charitable
Shannonvale Residents Committee	Coolraine	Social/Charitable
Limerick GAA	Coolraine	Sporting
Limerick Walking Association	Coolraine	Sporting
Na Piarasigh GAA	Coolraine	Sporting
St. Patrick's Parish (Limerick) Credit Union Ltd	Custom House	Credit Union
Friends of the Hunt Museum	Custom House	Political/Cultural
Hunt Museum Ltd	Custom House	Political/Cultural
Citizen Information Regional Office	Custom House	Social/Charitable
Limerick City Childcare Committee	Custom House	Social/Charitable

Name	ED	Category
NOVAS (Intensive Family Support Services)	Custom House	Social/Charitable
Watergate Community council	Custom House	Social/Charitable
Work Access Ltd.	Custom House	Social/Charitable
Concord Badminton Club	Custom House	Sporting
Friends of the Institute of Christ the King	Dock A	Religious/Church
Legion Of Mary - Limerick	Dock A	Religious/Church
Parishes and Funds in the Diocese of Limerick	Dock A	Religious/Church
Bord Na gCon Retired Greyhound Trust	Dock A	Social/Charitable
Cura – Pregnancy Counselling Services	Dock A	Social/Charitable
Limerick Social Service Council	Dock A	Social/Charitable
Limerick City Sports Partnership	Dock A	Sporting
EV+A (Exhibition of Visual Art)	Dock B	Political/Cultural
Campaign Against Suicide (CAS) Limerick	Dock B	Social/Charitable
Fighting Blindness	Dock B	Social/Charitable
Focus Ireland	Dock B	Social/Charitable
Rainbow Support Services Limited	Dock B	Social/Charitable
The Samaritans	Dock B	Social/Charitable
IGBO Union Ireland Limerick Chapter	Dock C	Political/Cultural
Limerick Filipino Community	Dock C	Political/Cultural
Doras Luimni	Dock C	Social/Charitable
Ghana Ireland Friendship Association	Dock C	Social/Charitable
Limerick Adult Basic Education Support	Dock C	Social/Charitable
Taoist Tai Chi Society	Dock C	Sporting
Craol Community Radio Forum Of Ireland Society Limited	Dock D	Industrial and Provident Society
Wired FM	Dock D	Political/Cultural
Irish Wheelchair Association	Dock D	Social/Charitable
Limerick Fairtrade City Group	Dock D	Social/Charitable
Limerick Marine Search and Rescue	Dock D	Social/Charitable
Mary Immaculate College Foundation Ltd	Dock D	Social/Charitable
Men's SHED Network	Dock D	Social/Charitable
Irish Special School Sports Council	Dock D	Sporting
Umbrella Project	Galvone A	Political/Cultural
Glasgow Park Resident's Association	Galvone A	Social/Charitable
Claughaun GAA	Galvone A	Sporting
Men's SHED Network	Galvone B	Social/Charitable
Southill Area Centre	Galvone B	Social/Charitable
Southill CDP	Galvone B	Social/Charitable
Southill Powerlifting & Weight Training Club	Galvone B	Sporting
Limerick C.I.E. Employees' Credit Union Ltd	Glentworth A	Credit Union

Name	ED	Category
Janesboro Tidy Town Committee	Glentworth B	Social/Charitable
Abbey Sarsfields GAA	John' A	Sporting
St. Mary's CDP Ltd.	John's A	Social/Charitable
Limerick City Wide Community Arts Group	John's B	Political/Cultural
King's Island Creche	John's B	Social/Charitable
Limerick City Community Safety	John's B	Social/Charitable
Limerick City Council Master Composter Volunteer	John's B	Social/Charitable
Limerick City Wide Forum for Estate Management	John's B	Social/Charitable
Limerick Civic Trust	John's B	Social/Charitable
Limerick Community Connect	John's B	Social/Charitable
Limerick Scout County	John's B	Social/Charitable
Men's SHED Network	John's B	Social/Charitable
Rett Syndrome Association of Ireland C/o	John's B	Social/Charitable
Share A Dream Limited	John's B	Social/Charitable
St. Mary's Action Centre	John's B	Social/Charitable
St. Mary's AID	John's B	Social/Charitable
St. Mary's Estate Management	John's B	Social/Charitable
St. Mary's Integrated Development Ltd.	John's B	Social/Charitable
Limerick and Clare Milk Producers Association	John's B	Trade Union
St. Mary's Parish Credit Union Ltd	John's C	Credit Union
Carers Association	John's C	Social/Charitable
Downtown Centre	John's C	Social/Charitable
Ballynanty Residents & Development Association	Killeely A	Social/Charitable
Associated Charities Trust	Killeely B	Social/Charitable
Killeely Resident's Association	Killeely B	Social/Charitable
Northside Learning Hub	Killeely B	Social/Charitable
St. Munchin's Action Centre	Killeely B	Social/Charitable
St. Munchin's CDP	Killeely B	Social/Charitable
Daghda Dance Company Limited	Market	Political/Cultural
Limerick Christian Trust	Market	Religious/Church
Arlington Novas Ireland Limited	Market	Social/Charitable
Garryowen Community Committee	Market	Social/Charitable
Garryowen Tidy Town Committee	Market	Social/Charitable
Limerick Scout County	Market	Social/Charitable
St John's Hospital	Market	Social/Charitable
Richmond RFC	Market	Sporting
ADAPT	Prospect B	Social/Charitable
Arthritis Ireland	Prospect B	Social/Charitable
Ballinacurra Weston Residents' Alliance	Prospect B	Social/Charitable

Name	ED	Category
Limerick City Care & Repair	Prospect B	Social/Charitable
Limerick Rape Crisis Centre	Prospect B	Social/Charitable
Limerick Scout County	Prospect B	Social/Charitable
Our Lady of Lourdes Action Centre	Prospect B	Social/Charitable
Our Lady of Lourdes CDP	Prospect B	Social/Charitable
Our Lady of Lourdes Community Service Group	Prospect B	Social/Charitable
Our Lady of Lourdes Estate Management	Prospect B	Social/Charitable
Our Lady of Lourdes Parents Support Programme	Prospect B	Social/Charitable
Rape Crisis Mid-West	Prospect B	Social/Charitable
Old Crescent RFC	Prospect B	Sporting
South Hill Credit Union Limited	Rathbane	Credit Union
Southill Development Co-Operative Society Limited	Rathbane	Industrial and Provident Society
ADD Mid-West Support Committee	Rathbane	Social/Charitable
Dyslexia Awareness (Mid-West) Parent Support Group	Rathbane	Social/Charitable
Keyes, Carew & Kincora Estate Management	Rathbane	Social/Charitable
Limerick Enterprise Development Park	Rathbane	Social/Charitable
Limerick Enterprise Network	Rathbane	Social/Charitable
Limerick South City Youth Initiative Garda Diversion Project	Rathbane	Social/Charitable
Limerick Women's Network	Rathbane	Social/Charitable
Queen of Peace Community Development Group	Rathbane	Social/Charitable
Southill House	Rathbane	Social/Charitable
The Blue Box Creative Learning Centre	Rathbane	Social/Charitable
The Creative Learning Centre	Rathbane	Social/Charitable
Old Christians GAA	Rathbane	Sporting
Queen Of Peace Credit Union Limited	St. Laurence	Credit Union
Limerick Scout County	St. Laurence	Social/Charitable
Franciscan Missionary Union	Shannon A	Religious/Church
Bedford Row Family Project Limited	Shannon A	Social/Charitable
Brainwave – Irish Epilepsy Association	Shannon A	Social/Charitable
Community Policing Unit	Shannon A	Social/Charitable
DOCHAS	Shannon A	Social/Charitable
Ennis Chernobyl Childrens Project	Shannon A	Social/Charitable
Limerick City Youth Forum	Shannon A	Social/Charitable
Limerick Youth Forum	Shannon A	Social/Charitable
Limerick Youth Information Bureau	Shannon A	Social/Charitable
Limerick Youth Services Board	Shannon A	Social/Charitable
Probation & Linkage in Limerick Scheme - PALLS Ltd.	Shannon A	Social/Charitable

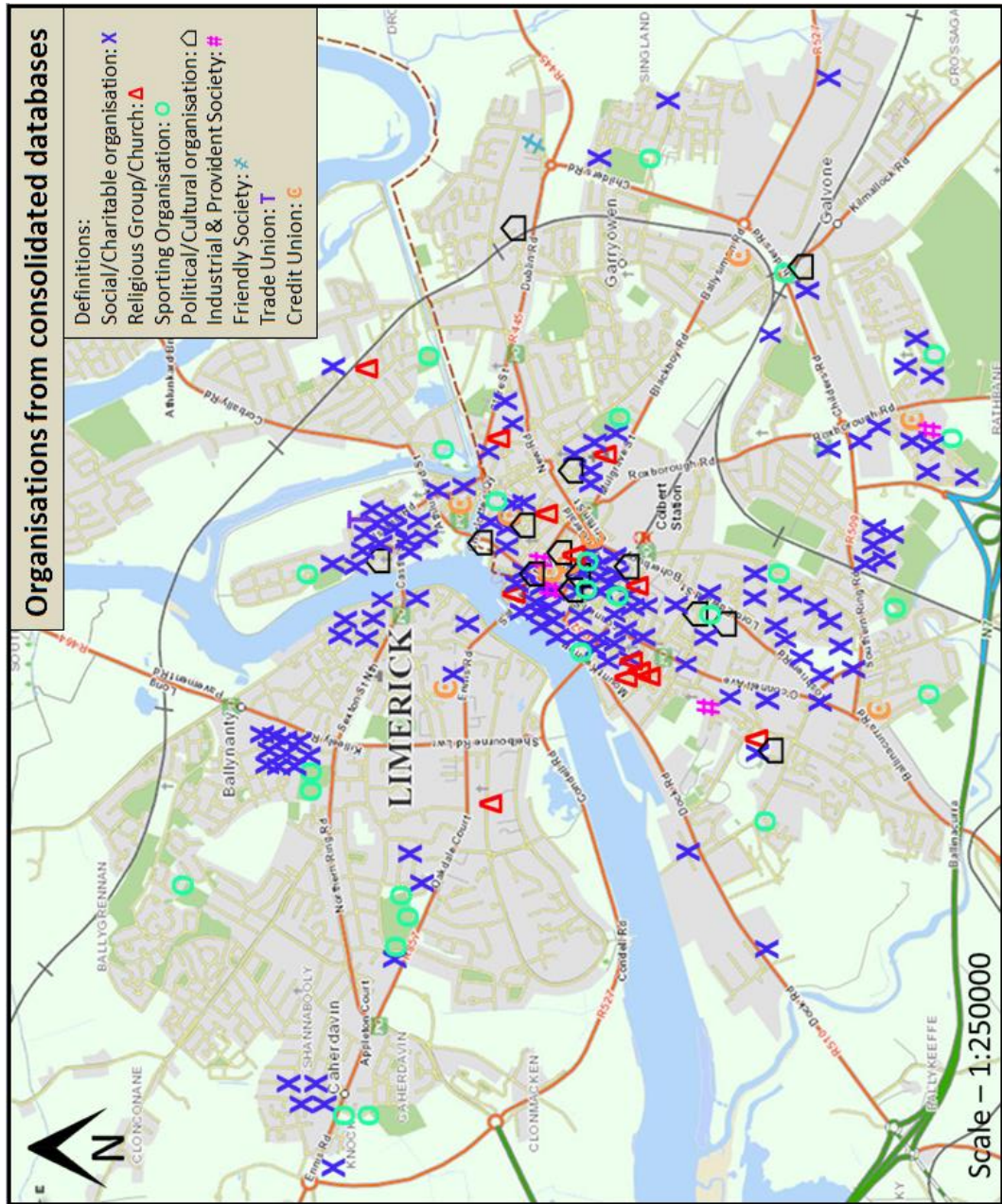
Name	ED	Category
The National Cancer Screening Service	Shannon A	Social/Charitable
Sarsfield Credit Union Limited	Shannon B	Credit Union
St. John's Credit Union Limited	Shannon B	Credit Union
Crescent House Industrial And Provident Society Limited	Shannon B	Industrial and Provident Society
The Limerick Cattle Market Limited	Shannon B	Industrial and Provident Society
Latvian Activity Centre (LAC)	Shannon B	Political/Cultural
New Communities Partnership Limerick	Shannon B	Political/Cultural
The Quarry Players	Shannon B	Political/Cultural
The Torch Players	Shannon B	Political/Cultural
The Dominican Biblical Institute	Shannon B	Religious/Church
City Of Limerick Vocational Education Committee	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Deaf Community Centre	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
FÁS Employment Services	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Financial Information Service Centres – FISC	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
GROW Community Mental Health	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
ISPCC	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Junior Chamber International Limerick	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Limerick BEST Project	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Limerick Citizen Information Service	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Limerick City Centre Tidy Town Committee	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Limerick Lone Parent Network	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Limerick Mental Health Association	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Limerick Resource Centre for the Unemployed	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Limerick Toastmasters	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
MABS	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Mallow Street Gospel Hall Trust	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Mid-West Deaf Association	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Mid-West Deaf Club C/o	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Mid-West Simon Community	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
MILES	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
People Action Against Unemployment Limited	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Pitch for Shane	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Red Ribbon Project Limited	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Threshold	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Voices of Older People	Shannon B	Social/Charitable
Grupo Candeias de Capoeira Limerick	Shannon B	Sporting
Limerick Leprechauns RFC	Shannon B	Sporting
Aljiff	Singland B	Social/Charitable

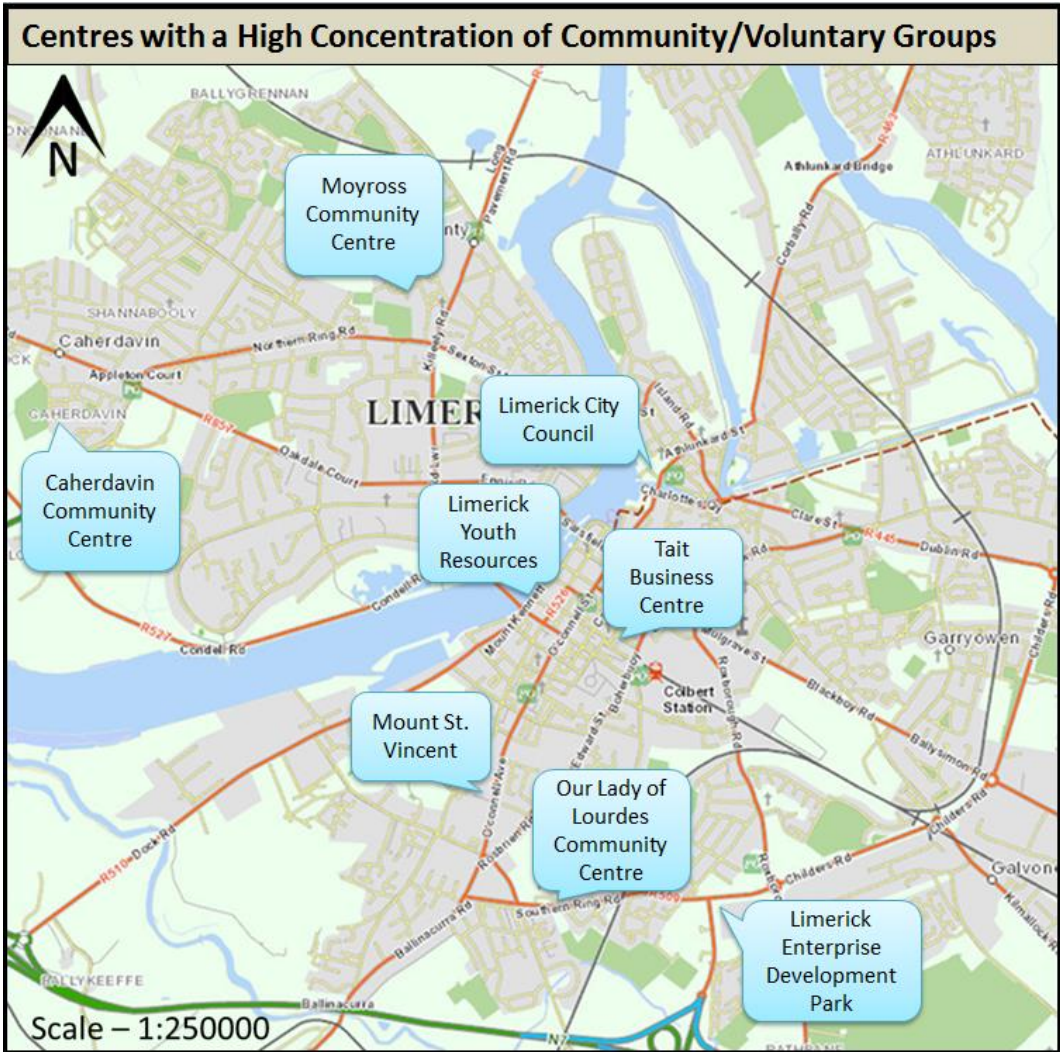
Name	ED	Category
Mid-Western Assoc. For Spina-Bifida	Singland B	Social/Charitable
Caherdavin Active Retirement Association	Limerick North Rural	Social/Charitable
Caherdavin Ladybirds	Limerick North Rural	Social/Charitable
Caherdavin Tidy Town Committee	Limerick North Rural	Social/Charitable
Caherdavin Youth Club	Limerick North Rural	Social/Charitable
Limerick Scout County	Limerick North Rural	Social/Charitable
Caherdavin Community Games	Limerick North Rural	Sporting
Thomond RFC	Limerick North Rural	Sporting

Databases:

- Community and Voluntary Forum for Limerick City (through the PAUL Partnership)
- The Citizens' Information Directory of Volunteers 2008
- Irish Revenue Commissioners' List of Charities 2012
- Registry of Friendly Societies (RFS)
- Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU)
- The GAA (Gaelic Athletics Association)
- The IRFU (Irish Rugby Football Union)
- Macra na Feirme
- The Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA)

Locational Maps:





Appendix E

List & Locational Map of North Tipperary Community & Voluntary Organisations

North Tipperary Community & Voluntary Organisations		
Name	ED	Category
Slieve Felim Voluntary Community Development Co-operative Society Limited	Abington	Industrial & Provident Society
Rearcross ICA	Abington	Political/Cultural
Faith & Light	Abington	Religious/Church
Rearcross Community Council	Abington	Social/Charitable
Rearcross Tidy Town Committee	Abington	Social/Charitable
Slieve Felim Tourism Co-op Society Ltd.	Abington	Social/Charitable
Sean Treacy's GAA	Abington	Sporting
Aglish Macra	Aglishcloghane	Political/Cultural
Aglish Summer Project/ Village Committee Aglish	Aglishcloghane	Social/Charitable
Ballina Tidy Towns & Tourism	Ballina	Social/Charitable
Zimbabwe Rural Development Trust	Ballina	Social/Charitable
Ballina GAA	Ballina	Sporting
Ballina/Killaoe RFC	Ballina	Sporting
Ballinagarry ICA	Ballinagarry	Political/Cultural
Pike/Knockshegowna Group Water Scheme Co-Operative Society Limited	Ballinagarry	Industrial & Provident Society
Ballinagarry Tidy Town Committee	Ballinagarry	Social/Charitable
The Garrynamona-Cormackstown Group Water Scheme Co-Operative Society Limited	Ballycahill	Industrial & Provident Society
Ballycahill Tidy Town Committee	Ballycahill	Social/Charitable
Kilruane MacDonaghs GAA	Ballygibbon	Sporting
Elmhill Group Water Scheme Society Limited	Ballymackey	Industrial & Provident Society
Ballinahinch / Kiloscully Macra	Birdhill	Political/Cultural
Ballinahinch ICA	Birdhill	Political/Cultural
Birdhill ICA	Birdhill	Political/Cultural
Ballinahinch Community Development Ltd	Birdhill	Social/Charitable

Name	ED	Category
Birdhill Tidy Town Committee	Birdhill	Social/Charitable
Ballinahinch GAA	Birdhill	Sporting
Borrisokane Credit Union Limited	Borrisokane	Credit Union
Borrisokane Players	Borrisokane	Political/Cultural
Borrisokane Games Hall	Borrisokane	Social/Charitable
Borrisokane Tidy Town Committee	Borrisokane	Social/Charitable
New Futures Group (Borrisokane)	Borrisokane	Social/Charitable
North Tipperary Disability Support Services Limited	Borrisokane	Social/Charitable
Tipperary Lakeside Development Co. Ltd	Borrisokane	Social/Charitable
Borrisokane GAA	Borrisokane	Sporting
Clodagh Macra	Borrisoleigh	Political/Cultural
B.I.L.D	Borrisoleigh	Social/Charitable
Borrisoleigh Development Association	Borrisoleigh	Social/Charitable
Borrisoleigh Parish Centre	Borrisoleigh	Social/Charitable
Borrisoleigh GAA	Borrisoleigh	Sporting
Clonakenny ICA	Bourney West	Political/Cultural
Focus Group '97	Bourney West	Social/Charitable
Clonakenny GAA	Bourney West	Sporting
Burgess Gaels GAA	Burgesbeg	Sporting
Carrig Riverstown Development Assoc.	Carrig	Social/Charitable
Carrig/ Riverstown Parent Toddler	Carrig	Social/Charitable
Capparoo Tidy Town Committee	Carrigatogher	Social/Charitable
Lissenhall Community Social Club	Carrigatogher	Social/Charitable
Kilcoleman Community Recreation & Development Society Limited	Carrigatoher	Industrial & Provident Society
Portroe Tidy Town Committee	Castletown	Social/Charitable
Portroe GAA	Castletown	Sporting
The Salers Cattle Society Of Ireland Limited	Cloughjordan	Industrial & Provident Society
Cloughjordan Cineclub	Cloughjordan	Political/Cultural
Cloughjordan ICA	Cloughjordan	Political/Cultural
Cloughjordan Community Development Committee	Cloughjordan	Social/Charitable

Name	ED	Category
Cloughjordan Girlguides	Cloughjordan	Social/Charitable
Cloughjordan Tidy Towns Group	Cloughjordan	Social/Charitable
Sustainable Projects Ireland LTD	Cloughjordan	Social/Charitable
South Eastern Cattle Breeding Society Limited	Drom	Industrial & Provident Society
Kilcommon ICA	Foilnaman	Political/Cultural
Kilcommon Tidy Town Committee	Foilnaman	Social/Charitable
Killcomon Community Center	Foilnaman	Social/Charitable
Ballinaclough ICA	Gortkelly	Political/Cultural
Killeen Group Water Scheme Co-Operative Society Limited	Greenhall	Industrial & Provident Society
Cabragh Wetlands Development Trust	Holycross	Social/Charitable
Holycross Tidy Town Committee	Holycross	Social/Charitable
Holycross/Ballycahill GAA	Holycross	Sporting
Holycross/Ballycahill Active Retired Group	Holycross/	Social/Charitable
Inch Old Road Development Committee	Inch	Social/Charitable
Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg Tidy Town Committee	Inch	Social/Charitable
Drom & Inch GAA	Inch	Sporting
Kilbarron Group Water Scheme Society Limited	Kilbarron	Industrial & Provident Society
Luska Group Water Scheme Co-Operative Society Limited	Kilbarron	Industrial & Provident Society
Kilbarron Tidy Town Committee	Kilbarron	Social/Charitable
Clonmore Tidy Town Committee	Killavinoge	Social/Charitable
Killea Tidy Town Committee	Killea	Social/Charitable
Killea GAA	Killea	Sporting
Kiloscully Development Association	Killoscully	Social/Charitable
Killoscully Tidy Town Committee	Killoscully	Social/Charitable
Silvermines Enterprise Group	Kilmore	Social/Charitable
Silvermines Tidy Town Committee	Kilmore	Social/Charitable
Silvermines GAA	Kilmore	Sporting
Templederry ICA	Kilnaneave	Political/Cultural

Name	ED	Category
Templederry Kenyons GAA	Kilnaneave	Sporting
Templederry Racquetball Club	Kilnaneave	Sporting
North Tipperary Dyslexia Support Group	Knigh	Social/Charitable
Puckane Development Association	Knigh	Social/Charitable
Puckane Tidy Town Committee	Knigh	Social/Charitable
Puckane/Carrig Senior Citizens	Knigh	Social/Charitable
Kildangan GAA	Knigh	Sporting
Toomevara ICA	Latteragh	Political/Cultural
Toomevara GAA	Latteragh	Sporting
Littleton Development Committee	Littleton	Social/Charitable
Moycarkey-Borris GAA	Littleton	Sporting
Lorrha Development Society Limited	Lorrha East	Industrial & Provident Society
St. Ruadhans Society Limited	Lorrha East	Industrial & Provident Society
Lorrha Tidy Town Committee	Lorrha East	Social/Charitable
Lorrha/Dorrha Development Assoc.	Lorrha East	Social/Charitable
Lorrha & Dorrha GAA	Lorrha East	Sporting
Carrigahorig Tidy Towns Committee	Lorrha West	Social/Charitable
Loughmore ICA	Loughmore	Political/Cultural
Loughmore Tidy Town Committee	Loughmore	Social/Charitable
Monsea Muintir Na Tire	Monsea	Social/Charitable
Drombane Co-Operative Agricultural & Dairy Society Limited	Moyaliff	Industrial & Provident Society
Drombane Group Water Scheme Co-Operative Society Limited	Moyaliff	Industrial & Provident Society
Drombane Village Group	Moyaliff	Social/Charitable
Upperchurch-Drombane GAA	Moyaliff	Sporting
Graigie Pouldine Group Water Scheme Co-Operative Society Limited	Moycarky	Industrial & Provident Society
Moyne Tidy Town Committee	Moyne	Social/Charitable
MOVE North Tipperary	Nenagh	Social/Charitable
Cunnahurt Knockalton Group Water Scheme Co-Operative Society Limited	Nenagh Rural	Industrial & Provident Society

Name	ED	Category
Ballycommon Tidy Town Committee	Nenagh Rural	Social/Charitable
Nenagh Credit Union Limited	Nenagh Urban	Credit Union
Arra Co-Operative Society Limited	Nenagh Urban	Industrial & Provident Society
Arrabawn Co-Operative Society Limited	Nenagh Urban	Industrial & Provident Society
Central Auctions Services Co-Operative Society Limited	Nenagh Urban	Industrial & Provident Society
North Tipperary Genealogy & Heritage Services	Nenagh Urban	Political/Cultural
Ormond Historical Society	Nenagh Urban	Political/Cultural
Nenagh ICA	Nenagh Urban	Political/Cultural
Nenagh Macra	Nenagh Urban	Political/Cultural
An Taisce North Tipperary Branch	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
County Tipperary N.R. Vocational Educational Committee	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
Friends Of The Children Of Chernobyl C/o	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
Legal Aid Board	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
Nenagh Active Retired Association	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
Nenagh Arts Centre Ltd	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
Nenagh Community Network	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
Nenagh Community Reparation Project	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
Nenagh Neighbourhood Youth Club	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
Nenagh Rail Network	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
Nenagh Tidy Town Committee	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
Nenagh World Aid Society	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
North Tipperary Community Services	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
Tipperary Leader Company	Nenagh Urban	Social/Charitable
Aonach Ar Suil	Nenagh Urban	Sporting
Nenagh Canoe Club	Nenagh Urban	Sporting
Nenagh Eire Og GAA	Nenagh Urban	Sporting
Nenagh Ormond RFC	Nenagh Urban	Sporting
Mulcair Credit Union Limited	Newport	Credit Union

Name	ED	Category
Newport ICA	Newport	Political/Cultural
Newport Macra	Newport	Political/Cultural
Development Association (Newport) Limited	Newport	Social/Charitable
Newport Development Association	Newport	Social/Charitable
Newport GAA	Newport	Sporting
Newport RFC	Newport	Sporting
Newport Tidy Town Committee	Newport	Social/Charitable
Roscrea Credit Union Limited	Roscrea	Credit Union
FRS Fencing Systems Society Limited	Roscrea	Industrial & Provident Society
FRS Network Amalgamated Co-Operative Societies Limited	Roscrea	Industrial & Provident Society
FRS Network Society Limited	Roscrea	Industrial & Provident Society
FRS Recruitment Society Limited	Roscrea	Industrial & Provident Society
FRS Training Services Society Limited	Roscrea	Industrial & Provident Society
National Co-Operative Farm Relief Services Limited	Roscrea	Industrial & Provident Society
Roscrea Community, Tourism & Leisure Co-Operative Society Limited	Roscrea	Industrial & Provident Society
Roscrea Musical Society	Roscrea	Political/Cultural
Roscrea Tuesday Arts Group	Roscrea	Political/Cultural
Roscrea ICA	Roscrea	Political/Cultural
Sisters Of The Sacred Heart Of Jesus & Mary	Roscrea	Religious/Church
6th Tipperary Roscrea Scouts	Roscrea	Social/Charitable
Chernobyl Life Line Limited	Roscrea	Social/Charitable
Department of Civil Defence	Roscrea	Social/Charitable
Friends Of Dean Maxwell Home C/o	Roscrea	Social/Charitable
Irish Wheelchair Association North Tipperary Branch	Roscrea	Social/Charitable
Roscrea 2000 LTD	Roscrea	Social/Charitable

Name	ED	Category
Roscrea Community Development Council	Roscrea	Social/Charitable
Roscrea Community Employment Scheme	Roscrea	Social/Charitable
Roscrea Tidy Town Committee	Roscrea	Social/Charitable
Saint Cronan's Association Ltd.	Roscrea	Social/Charitable
Sean Ross Heritage Project	Roscrea	Social/Charitable
St. Cronans Association LTD	Roscrea	Social/Charitable
Roscrea GAA	Roscrea	Sporting
Templemore Credit Union Limited	Templemore	Credit Union
Active Link Co-Operative Society Limited	Templemore	Industrial & Provident Society
Templemore Co-Operative Mart Limited	Templemore	Industrial & Provident Society
Devils Bit Macra	Templemore	Political/Cultural
Templemore ICA	Templemore	Political/Cultural
North Tipperary Hospice Movement St Brendan's Hall	Templemore	Social/Charitable
Templemore Tidy Town Committee	Templemore	Social/Charitable
J.K. Bracken's GAA	Templemore	Sporting
Laha Group Water Scheme Co-Operative Society Limited	Templetouhy	Industrial & Provident Society
Castleiney Tidy Town Committee	Templetouhy	Social/Charitable
Templetouhy Tidy Town Committee	Templetouhy	Social/Charitable
Loughmore-Castleiney GAA	Templetouhy	Sporting
Moyne / Templetouhy Macra	Templetouhy	Political/Cultural
Moyne-Templetouhy GAA	Templetouhy	Sporting
Terryglass ICA	Terryglass	Political/Cultural
Ballinderry Improvements Assoc.	Terryglass	Social/Charitable
Terryglass Improvement Association	Terryglass	Social/Charitable
Terryglass Tidy Town Committee	Terryglass	Social/Charitable
Terryglass/Kilbarren Enterprise Group	Terryglass	Social/Charitable
Shannon Rovers GAA	Terryglass	Sporting

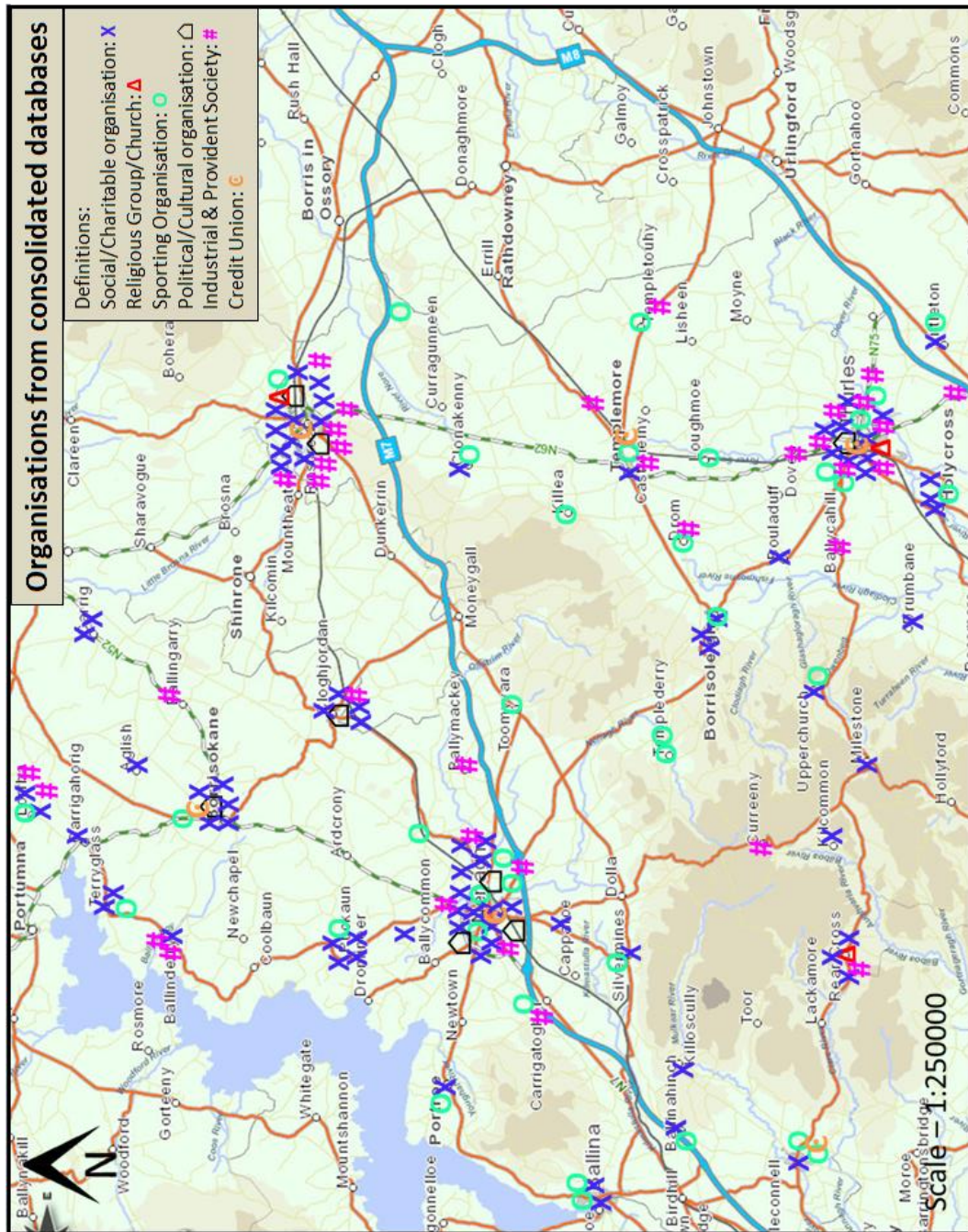
Name	ED	Category
Tonagha & Laharden Group Water Scheme Co-Operative Society Limited	Thurles Rural	Industrial & Provident Society
Thurles Credit Union Limited	Thurles Urban	Credit Union
Centenary Thurles Co-Operative Society Limited	Thurles Urban	Industrial & Provident Society
Clobanna Group Water Scheme Co-Operative Society Limited	Thurles Urban	Industrial & Provident Society
Irish Horse Trials Society Limited	Thurles Urban	Industrial & Provident Society
Irish Shorthorn Society Limited	Thurles Urban	Industrial & Provident Society
Mid Tipperary Co-Operative Livestock Society Limited	Thurles Urban	Industrial & Provident Society
Mid-Tipperary Trading Society Limited	Thurles Urban	Industrial & Provident Society
Thurles Gaelic Sportsfield Society Limited	Thurles Urban	Industrial & Provident Society
Durlas Eile Eliogarty Memorial Committee	Thurles Urban	Political/Cultural
Thurles ICA	Thurles Urban	Political/Cultural
Cashel & Emly Parishes & Institutions	Thurles Urban	Religious/Church
County Tipperary Citizen Information Service	Thurles Urban	Social/Charitable
Friends Of The Hospital Of The Assumption	Thurles Urban	Social/Charitable
Stauros Foundation Ireland Limited	Thurles Urban	Social/Charitable
Thurles Action For Community Development	Thurles Urban	Social/Charitable
Tipperary Association for Special Needs	Thurles Urban	Social/Charitable
Tipperary Centre For Independent Living Ltd	Thurles Urban	Social/Charitable
Tipperary Regional Youth Service	Thurles Urban	Social/Charitable
Tipperary Talking Newspaper	Thurles Urban	Social/Charitable

Name	ED	Category
Durlas Og	Thurles Urban	Sporting
Mid Tipperary Hill Walkers	Thurles Urban	Sporting
Thurles RFC	Thurles Urban	Sporting
Thurles Sarsfields GAA	Thurles Urban	Sporting
Knock ICA	Timoney	Political/Cultural
Knock GAA	Timoney	Sporting
Milestone Development Association	Upperchurch	Social/Charitable
Shevry Tidy Town Committee	Upperchurch	Social/Charitable
Upperchurch Tidy Town Committee	Upperchurch	Social/Charitable
Upperchurch/Drombane Community Council	Upperchurch	Social/Charitable

Databases:

- Community and Voluntary Forum for North Tipperary (CAVA)
- The Citizens' Information Directory of Volunteers 2008
- Irish Revenue Commissioners' List of Charities 2012
- Registry of Friendly Societies (RFS)
- Irish League of Credit Unions (ILCU)
- The GAA (Gaelic Athletics Association)
- The IRFU (Irish Rugby Football Union)
- Macra na Feirme
- The Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA)

Locational Map:



Appendix F

Map of CLÁR Designated Areas in North Tipperary

Appendix G

Inch Community and Voluntary Groups' Profile

Name	Year Founded	Category	Parish/Half Parish	Number of Members	15-24	25-44	45-65	65+	Male	Female
Drom & Inch Alter Society	1961	Religious/Church	Drom & Inch	8	0	0	2	6	0	8
Drom & Inch Camogie Club	1990	Sporting	Drom & Inch	93	13	46	30	4	12	81
Drom & Inch GAA Juvenile Club	1982	Sporting	Drom & Inch	140					125	15
Drom & Inch GAA Senior Club	1987	Sporting	Drom & Inch	168	23	68	60	17	126	42
Drom & Inch Youth Club	2001	Social/Charitable	Drom & Inch	38	20	5	3	0	15	23
Drom & Inch Scór Club		Political/Cultural	Drom & Inch							
Graveyards Committee	1988	Social/Charitable	Drom & Inch	7	1	1	5	0	4	3
Historical Society		Political/Cultural	Drom & Inch							
Inch Community Centre Committee	1961	Social/Charitable	Inch	10	0	2	5	3	6	4
Inch Gun Club		Sporting	Inch							
Inch Life Savers Defibrillator Group	2010	Social/Charitable	Inch	6	0	6	0	0	3	3
Inch National School Board of Management	2012	Social/Charitable	Inch	8	0	6	2	0	4	4
Inch National School Parents Association Committee	2012	Social/Charitable	Inch	12	0	12	0	0	6	6
Inch Old Road Committee	1983	Social/Charitable	Inch	8	0	2	4	2	7	1
Inch Players Drama Society	1958	Political/Cultural	Inch	20	5	8	5	2	9	11
Inch Whist Club	1982	Social/Charitable	Inch	40	0	0	10	30	0	0
Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg Tidy Village Committee	1980	Social/Charitable	Inch	12	0	4	8	0	5	7
North Tipperary Hospice Drom & Inch Branch	1994	Social/Charitable	Drom & Inch	5	0	4	1	0	1	4
Sale of Works Committee	1961	Social/Charitable	Inch	12	0	8	3	1	6	6

Name	Number of Members <1 year	1-5 years	5+ years	Change <1	Change 1-5	Change 5-10
Drom & Inch Alter Society	8	0	0	6 No Change	Decreased	Drcreased
Drom & Inch Camogie Club	93	0	35	58 Decreased	Increased	Increased
Drom & Inch GAA Juvenile Club	140	5	60	75		
Drom & Inch GAA Senior Club	168	0	115	53 Decreased	Increased	Increased
Drom & Inch Youth Club	38	8	19	11 Increased	No Change	Increased
Drom & Inch Scór Club						
Graveyards Committee	7	1	1	5	1 (+) 1	No Change
Historical Society						
Inch Community Centre Committee	10	0	2	8 No Change	(+) 2	No Change
Inch Gun Club						
Inch Life Savers Defibrillator Group	6	0	6	0 No Change	Increased	
Inch National School Board of Management	8	7	0	1 No Change	No Change	
Inch National School Parents Association Committee	12	0	12	0 No Change	No Change	
Inch Old Road Committee	8	0	1	7 No Change	No Change	No Change
Inch Players Drama Society	20	0	6	14 No Change	No Change	No Change
Inch Whist Club	40	0	0	40 No Change	No Change	No Change
Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg Tidy Village Committee	12	0	0	12 No Change	(=)	No Change
North Tipperary Hospice Drom & Inch Branch	5	0	0	5 No Change	No Change	
Sale of Works Committee	12	0	4	8 No Change	No Change	No Change

Name	Events per year	% Money Fundraisi	% Money Other	Meetings per year	Committee elected	CAVA	Other Organisation
Drom & Inch Alter Society	0	100%	0%	26	No	Parish	
Drom & Inch Camogie Club	1	60%	40%	6 1 year	No	GAA	
Drom & Inch GAA Juvenile Club	1	50%	50%	6 1 year	No	GAA	
Drom & Inch GAA Senior Club	0	50%	50%	6 1 year	No	GAA	
Drom & Inch Youth Club	0	0%	100%	2 1 year	No	Foróige	
Drom & Inch Scór Club							
Graveyards Committee	1	20%	80%	6 1 year	No	No	
Historical Society							
Inch Community Centre Committee	1	85%	15%	12 1 year	No	No	
Inch Gun Club							
Inch Life Savers Defibrillator Group	0	15%	85%	2 1 year	No	No	
Inch National School Board of Management	0	0%	100%	6 2 years	No	CP5MA	
Inch National School Parents Association Committee	0	0%	100%	6 2 years	No	No	
Inch Old Road Committee	0	80%	20%	10 1 year	Yes	No	
Inch Players Drama Society	1	100%	0%	12 1 year	No	No	
Inch Whist Club	0	0%	0%	52	No	No	
Inch-Bouladuff-Ragg Tidy Village Committee	1	65%	35%	6 1 year	Yes	County Council	
North Tipperary Hospice Drom & Inch Branch	0	100%	0%	2 1 year	No	North Tipperary Hospice	
Sale of Works Committee	1	100%	0%	8 1 year	No	No	

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