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Note from the Editor

Richard Boyle (Acting Editor)
Institute of Public Administration

This edition contains a mini-symposium of three papers (by Hambleton, Lloyd, and Joyce & McCaffrey) based on presentations to the joint annual conference of the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) and the Centre for Cross Border Studies, entitled ‘Shared Services, Shared Opportunities: New Models of Public Sector Collaboration and Partnership’, held in January 2015. The ICLRD is focused on building the capacity of regional and local authorities, development agencies, border networks, and community and voluntary organisations to manage spatial planning on the island of Ireland as a whole. The Journal would like to acknowledge the support of Ms Caroline Creamer, acting Director of the ICLRD, in commissioning these papers, which are an important contribution to the debate on shared services and collaboration and their role in public service provision.

The paper by Ongaro in this issue arose from a presentation to a round-table event organised by the ‘Building State Capacity in Ireland’ research programme, UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy, in January 2015. This paper provides academics and practitioners with a thoughtful overview of some of the major large-scale challenges facing public administration in Europe in the coming years.

The paper by Tobin traces the origins of the Irish Department of Finance and provides a fascinating insight into the creation of the department and some of the people responsible.

Finally, we include two book reviews on topical issues: tackling wicked government problems and place-based innovation.