EREDI: NIAGARA REGION & WINDSOR-ESSEX

Danielle Collins
d4collin@uwaterloo.ca
School of Environment, Enterprise & Development
University of Waterloo
• Collaboration
  – Formal / informal
  – Top-down / bottom up
  – Process / outcomes

• Regional boundaries
  – Geographical
  – Urban/rural
  – Administrative
  – Historical
CASE PAIR SIMILARITIES

• Niagara Region

Geography: border lakes, US
Size: ~1800 sq. km
Population: ~400,000
Economy: same top six sectors

• Windsor–Essex

Geography: border lakes, US
Size: ~1800 sq. km
Population: ~400,000
Economy: same top six sectors
CASE PAIR DIFFERENCES

- **Niagara Region**

  **Government:**
  two-tiered with 12 local municipalities and one regional municipality

  **Regional economic development:**
  department of the regional municipality

  **Local economic development:**
  five economic development officers

- **Windsor-Essex**

  **Government:**
  two local municipalities (one city, one township), and seven local municipalities under a two-tiered County government

  **Regional economic development:**
  non-profit funded by City of Windsor and County of Essex

  **Local economic development:**
  n/a
• 48 one-hour interviews
• factors that enable or hinder collaboration in regional economic development

• Governments: local, regional, provincial
• Academic, industry & community organizations
ORGANIZATIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

• Regional Institutions
• Authority
• Formalization
• Roles
• Forums
• Networks
• Vertical and Horizontal Coordination
LOCAL-REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Local
- Horizontal coordination
- Networks

Regional
- Regional institutions
- Forums
- Formalization
- Authority
- Roles

Enablers and Resisters

Evaluating Regional Economic Development Initiatives (EREDI)
RURAL-URBAN PERSPECTIVES

Enablers and Resisters

Evaluating Regional Economic Development Initiatives (EREDI)
LOCATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Niagara Region

- Horizontal coordination
- Vertical coordination

Windsor-Essex

- Regional institutions
- Vertical coordination
- Forums

Enablers and Resisters

Evaluating Regional Economic Development Initiatives (EREDI)
CONCLUSION

• Regional institutions and forums improve collaboration

• Formalization hinders the collaborative process

Local and Rural Stakeholders

• Horizontal coordination and networking were valuable
• Vertical coordination was a barrier in rural areas

Regional and Urban Stakeholders

• Clearly defined roles were important for collaboration
• Authority was more of a barrier in urban areas
Niagara Region and Windsor-Essex

- Niagara valued **horizontal coordination** and found **vertical coordination** to be cumbersome.
- Windsor-Essex would prefer **vertical coordination** to be formalized and found barriers were in **horizontal coordination**.

**Conclusion**

- There is no **ideal** regional economic development structure.
- Look at geography, political structures and rural-urban mix to determine the best institutional model.
For more information:

Danielle Collins
d4collin@uwaterloo.ca

Masters’ in Local Economic Development
University of Waterloo
&
Labour Market Research Coordinator
Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie