

RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES ON RURAL CHANGE

Introduction & Welcome

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Rural Community Network
SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES



This project has received
European Regional
Development Funding
under the European
Community Initiative



RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES ON RURAL CHANGE

- The SPAN project
- SPAN in Northern Ireland
- The added value of SPAN
- Today's event



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The SPAN Project

- Rural planning and development at QUB Planning School
- 2003 - initiative by 8 partners from Northern Ireland, Ireland, France and Belgium
- 2004 - funding of €4.8m from EU INTERREG 111B North West Europe Programme
- Participatory spatial planning and local development



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INTERREG IIB
NORTH WEST EUROPE



SPAN in Northern Ireland

OUTPUT 1:

- 3 year action research project on citizen participation in rural planning by RCN and QUB
- 3 pilot territories
- Cookstown District Council, Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council, Cookstown and Western Shores Area Network, East Down Rural Community Network, Mourne Derg Partnership, Strabane and District Community Network
- Community preference and environmental responsibility
- Portfolio launched at Parliament Buildings in June 2007
- Presentations and briefings

SPAN in Northern Ireland

OUTPUT 2:

- Practitioner training in France, Belgium, Ireland and Northern Ireland – elected representatives, officials and civil society

OUTPUT 3:

- 5 conferences in Northern Ireland
- 15 working papers

OUTPUT 4:

- Pilot action research on migrant workers
- Pilot study on economic development in the countryside



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The Added Value of SPAN

- Practitioner – academic collaboration
- Trans-regional technical assistance
- Comparative governance and know-how
- Northern Ireland organisations connected with 6,000 NWE organisations
- SPAN connected to 97 other NWE projects

Today's Event

Research Perspectives on Rural Change

- John McDonagh – Contemporary changes in rural society and economy
- Research report on migrant workers
- Research report on regulatory planning
- Reflections from Zita Murphy (DARD) and David Meredith (Teagasc)

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Thank you for listening



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