



Thematic Event

New Opportunities for Active Citizenship through Multi-Level Governance & Strategic Territorial Planning

**Boardroom
John Hume Building, NUI Maynooth**

29th November 2006.



Introduction to SPAN:

The Strategic Planning Action Network (SPAN) is an EU-Initiative funded under Interreg IIIB which is focusing on the themes of strategic territorial planning and multi-level governance. Concluding in August 2007, this Project involves practitioner and academic partners from Ireland, Northern Ireland, France and Belgium (the NWE Region). In the context of Ireland, the project is operating in two pilot territories:

1. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (Dublin Region)
2. County Meath (Mid-East Region).



Firmly rooted in the policy options of the *European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)*, the *Spatial Vision for North West Europe*, and the *Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent* - each of which gives prominence to securing balanced growth within the context of polycentricity and a new urban-rural partnership – the pilot territories in each partner region are implementing projects and undertaking research so as to enhance the level of integration between their economic, social and environmental activities.

Purpose of this Event:

Increasingly, European policy is filtering through to national, regional and local policy. It is demanded that each member state ensure they meet the objectives of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas, the Third Report on Economic and Social Cohesion (published February 2004) and, more recently, the Review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (published June 2006). These various Agendas and Strategies share many principles in common: promotion of public-private partnerships, elimination of social exclusion, increasing competitiveness, investment in physical and human capital, good governance, increased innovation, full and high-quality employment, access to information, and enhancing citizen participation in decision-making.

This workshop will (a) flag the multi-level governance and strategic territorial planning issues being faced both in the SPAN pilot territories and in urban and rural Ireland and (b) examine to what extent these issues are the same or different within the other SPAN pilot territories. Particular attention is to be paid to the issues of building and maintaining good governance and enhancing citizen participation. This event will also examine some of the new approaches emerging to address these issues (i.e. e-consultation, visual aids, etc.) and discuss their effectiveness in assisting stakeholders, particularly community groups, in overcoming the barriers they face in engaging in both the governance and planning systems.

Focus of this Event:

Against the backdrop of governance and planning issues facing the SPAN pilot territories of County Meath and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, some of the issues which this event will be covering are:

- # The role of community development and local government agencies in building good governance
- # E-Governance and E-consultation
- # Participation types and the need to move towards real consultation and real partnership
- # Participation in planning - pros for developers, council & community
- # The value of visual tools in participatory planning



A report will be prepared on the discussions held and issues raised and this will form the basis for the second workshop to be held on 28th March 2007. This follow-on event will be more practical in its focus and, through case studies and action learning, will consider how communities can best engage with decision-makers and the planning process so that their concerns and viewpoints are taken into account, the various approaches to citizen participation and the strengths and weaknesses of each, and how best to engage with the more disadvantaged communities so that they actively participate in planning and governance matters.

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Programme

10.00 – 10.45 **SPAN Presentations**

Governance and Citizen Participation in the Urban and Sub-urban Context:
The case of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown – *Brendan O’Keeffe, National Institute
for Regional and Spatial Analysis, NUI Maynooth*

Meath under Pressure: A Suburb of Dublin – *Kevin Stewart, Director of
Planning & Economic Development, Meath County Council*

10.45 – 11.10 **Tea/Coffee**

Convenor: John Driscoll, International Institute for Urban Design, Cambridge, Mass.

11.10 – 11.55 **Workshop 1: Good Governance – Policy & Practice**

Community Development & Local Government in Partnership: Building
Blocks to Good Governance – *Joe Allen, Local Government Policy Section,
Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government*

E-Governance in Ireland: E-Consultation as a Public Participation Tool –
Dr. G. Honor Fagan, Department of Sociology, NUI Maynooth

11.55 – 12.45 **Panel Discussion**

12.45 **Lunch**

14.00 – 15.00 **Workshop 2: Planning for Active Citizenship & Social Inclusion**

Public Participation: Stakeholders Rule O.K.! – *Alison Harvey, Planning &
Development Officer, The Heritage Council*

Participation in Planning: Moving from Information Exchange to
Consultation to Partnership – *Sharon Cosgrove, Combat Poverty Agency*

Visualisation tools, ICT and Participatory Planning – *Richard Kingston,
School of Environment & Development, University of Manchester*

15.00 – 15.40 **Panel Discussion**

15.40 – 16.00 **Conclusion & Wrap-up**

16.00 **Close**

This event will be followed by a Wine & Cheese Reception

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Registration Form

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Do you have any special requirements? (dietary, access)

Please return completed form to:

Caroline Creamer, NIRSA, John Hume Building, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Or fax to: 01-708 6456