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## Workshop

# Examining the Challenges of Participation & Multi-Level Governance in Spatial Planning

Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath

26<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

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## Introduction to SPAN Project

- SPAN (Strategic Planning Action Network) is an EU funded project;
- The project is focus on two key themes - strategic territorial planning and multi-level governance;
- The emphasis is on public participation in both these contexts;
- The SPAN partners are local development organisations and university partners from Belgium, France, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland;
- In Ireland, the pilot case-study territories are Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown & County Meath;



## Research to Date

- Analysis of public participation in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Development Plan Review process
- Review of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Governance structures

## Key Issues Emerging

### Review of Public Participation in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Development Plan

- The strict time limits for preparation of the Development Plan are extremely onerous in view of the wide range of issues that must, by law, be included in the plan.
- Mapping of public involvement in the review process (the first time this has ever been done in Ireland) reveals the extent to which levels of participation in the different stages of the plan are linked to 'socio-economic status' and 'controversial issues'.
- Various stakeholders (councillors, officials, community agencies, citizens) identify different needs / priorities for improvements (incl. Councils) in the preparation of future Development Plans in order to achieve more effective levels of participation.

### Review of County Governance Structures

- Despite considerable progress in promoting collaboration/partnership, the size of the County and the scale of operation for agencies continue to act as barriers to participative democracy and joined-up government.
- The research identifies both new target groups and vehicles for participation as key improvements for enhanced governance.
- On-going reform of local structures and incentives are necessary in order to ensure information-sharing and advance equality/poverty proofing.

## Seminar Programme



### **Why?**

This 1-day intensive workshop will discuss the findings from the Dún Laoghaire research in the context of County Meath's experiences around inter-agency collaboration and the extent, and take-up, of participation in the Development Plan review.

### **Who?**

Meath CDB and Planning Department staff, locally elected officials, and state agencies with a brief/interest in County Meath.

## Programme

**10.00 Registration**  
Tea/Coffee

**10.20 Welcome**  
*Jimmy Mangan, Chair, Meath County Development Board*

**10.30 Welcome & Outline of Day's Objectives**  
*Brendan Bartley, NIRSA, NUI Maynooth*

**10.40 Introduction to SPAN**  
*Caroline Creamer, NIRSA, NUI Maynooth*

### ***Participation in Planning: Meeting the Challenges***

**10.50 Review of Public Participation in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Development Plan**  
*Brendan Bartley & Jeanne Meldon, NIRSA, NUI Maynooth*

**11.15 Tea/Coffee**

**11.40 Discussion: Meath – Integrated Planning for a County in Transition**  
*Facilitator: Brian Harvey, Independent Consultant*

**12.15 Synopsis of Issues Raised**  
*Kevin Stewart, Director of Economic Development & Innovation, Meath County Council*

**12.30 Lunch**

### ***Local Governance & its Multiple Tiers: Building Blocks for Effective Collaboration***

**13.45 Review of County Governance Structures in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown**  
*Brendan O'Keeffe, NIRSA & Mary Immaculate College, Limerick*

**14.10 Discussion: Governance Structures in County Meath – Defining Roles in a Crowded Landscape?**  
*Facilitator: Brian Harvey, Independent Consultant*

**14.45 Synopsis of Issues Raised**  
*Michael Killeen, Director of Community & Enterprise, Meath County Development Board*

**15.00 Closing Comments**  
*Cllr Jimmy Cudden, Cathaoirleach, Meath County Council*

Further background information on the SPAN project can be accessed at: [www.iclrd.org/pages/span.html](http://www.iclrd.org/pages/span.html)



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Knightsbook Hotel, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007

## Registration Form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organisation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Please return completed form to:  
Caroline Creamer, NIRSA, John Hume Building, NUI Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Or fax to: 01-708 6456