



SWARE
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Conditions for successful multistakeholder engagement.

Róisín O'Grady

Heritage Officer, Tipperary County Council

roisin.ogradey@tipperarycoco.ie

21 September 2016

Launching Conference

Tell me and I'll forget

Show me and I'll remember

Involve me and I'll understand

One of the principal aims of local authority reform in Ireland over last number of years has been to establish structures that allow stakeholders to contribute towards policy making.

LOCAL AUTHORITY EXPERIENCE

Stakeholder Engagement Structures

Local Government Ireland

- **Strategic Policy Committees (SPC'S)**- focus on local government policies and programmes.
- **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)** main aim to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.
- **Public Participation Network (PPN)**-to enable the public to take an active formal role in the policy making and oversight activities of the Local Authority's areas of responsibility

Strategic Policy Committee

- Assist policymaking, particularly in early phase.
Final decision remains with Council
- Reflect LA Functions / Services:
 - Economic Development / Planning
 - Environmental Policy
 - Transportation / Infrastructure
 - Housing, Social and Cultural Development
- 2/3 Elected members, 1/3 Sectoral interests
- Six sectors to be represented on at least one SPC in each Local Authority:
 - Agriculture / Farming (rural authorities)
 - Environmental / Conservation / Culture
 - Development / Construction
 - Business / Commercial
 - Trade Union
 - Community / Voluntary / Disadvantaged

Local Community Development Committee

- Main function of LCDC is to prepare, implement and monitor the community elements of a 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).
- Membership includes
 - Elected members,
 - Local authority staff,
 - Representatives of public bodies providing services in the area
 - Representatives of local community interests
 - Local community representatives
 - Representatives of publicly funded or supported local development bodies
- The majority of members must be from non statutory sector.

Public Participation Network

- Main functions of PPN is to
 - Broaden representation and participation in Local Government
 - Act as a hub for sharing information between sectors
 - Build the capacity of the sectors through networks, training and workshops.
- PPN is a network of groups from
 - Community and Voluntary sector
 - Social Inclusion sector
 - Environmental sector
- Over 980 groups in Tipperary PPN currently
- Feed into to council policy through linkage groups and PPN representatives.

Following on social partnership model, citizen engagement and participation is a priority at local level

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AT PROJECT LEVEL

Other Stakeholder groups

- **Project based**
 - River Suir Network (Waterways Forward & Green & Blue Futures Interreg projects, Blueway project)
 - Lough Derg Heritage Project and Lough Derg Marketing Group
 - Tipperary 2016 commemorations

- **Public consultations**
 - All strategies produced by Council, County Development Plan, LECP, Heritage Plan, Arts Plan, Sports Strategy, Tourism Strategy etc

CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL MULTISTAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Developing participative approaches is challenging and requires time and energy.
- In a multistakeholder environment there are often conflicting interests, meetings should foster an environment where all conflicts are managed and all stakeholders are committed to a set of common, goals and objectives.
- Good facilitation during the meeting keeps people motivated, allowing the meeting to move along while giving space for information and an opportunity to express their opinions.
- Seek feedback and adjust format if necessary.
- Communication in advance of meeting and keep member updated where necessary on progress between meetings.



SWARE
Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Thank you for your attention!