

ICLRD Third Annual Conference, Armagh City Hotel, 17 January 2008

# Fostering Co-operation for Local and Regional Development through Cross-Border Spatial Planning

## Closing Comments

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INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Promoting best practices in spatial planning and economic development.

## Closing Comments

- ICLRD Model
- Key Messages from the Conference
- Third Annual Conference Reflections
- Thanks



# ICLRD

- What is ICLR D?
- “Cross-discipline, cross-campus, cross-border”
- ICLR D “uniqueness”
- Ability to deliver research findings that can be directly fed into policy making and capacity building by bringing relevant actors together
- Working on common goals that are not abstract but are market focused and have direct relevance on people’s lives and economic prosperity going forward
- Regional, sub-regional, local levels



## Key Messages from the Conference

- *Newry-Dundalk Sub-regional Strategy*
- Growing regional self awareness, appreciation of shared strengths
- Building upon complementarities, joint pursuit on collaborative projects
- Delivering real and effective regional collaboration
- Moving towards a collaborative, non-statutory sub-regional framework
- Promoting a higher quality, value added and knowledge based economy
- Fostering a dynamic and innovative sub-region



## Key Messages from the Conference

- *Micro-regions: reconnecting cross-border towns and villages*
- Added value of working together rather than in isolation: the whole is greater than the sum of the parts
- Opportunity to build on potential strengths
- Enhanced understanding of the potentiality
- Participation in meaningful networks involving all stakeholders
- The search for 'Positive Sum' cooperation



## Key Messages from the Conference

- *Role of Housing in Building Sustainable Communities*
- Sustainable communities principles should be applied to places at various stages of development: new places, places undergoing regeneration, places evolving
- Promoting mixed community housing must be sensitive and incremental: there is no quick fix, policies should foster choice and harmonisation rather than forced integration
- Need to share innovative approaches as to what works and what doesn't in sustainable communities housing



## Third Annual Conference Reflections

- Watershed ICLRD major conference, Athlone, 2004
- 2006 ITI report on *Spatial Strategies on the Island of Ireland: Development of a Framework for Collaborative Action*
- Maintenance of the status quo in spatial planning policies that pay scant attention to each other is no longer acceptable
- Increasing awareness of the need for both complementary collaboration and competitive collaboration
- Need for accurate and robust information as a strong evidence base for effective decision-making

