

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS:

Guiding, supporting, capacity building

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Local partnerships and multi-level governance

- ▣ Local partnerships and other tiers of governance – regional/provincial, national, supra-national
- ▣ Top-down hierarchies or ‘vertical partnership’?

A mutually supportive relationship?

- ⌘ Local partnerships are institutions through which governments can deliver national programmes
- ⌘ Local partnerships can make a bottom-up contribution to national policy
- ⌘ National governments can provide guidance and build capacity at local level
- ⌘ National government can identify and disseminate good practice.

National government roles

- ❑ Legislative and other **guidance** – setting the parameters for local partnerships
- ❑ **Co-ordination** of national ministries and agencies – ensuring government speaks to local partnerships with one voice
- ❑ Building the **capacity** of local partnerships – provision of financial and other support
- ❑ Promoting **dialogue** between national and local policy makers – balancing top-down and bottom up inputs to policy
- ❑ **Management and evaluation** – supporting performance management and evaluation at the local level.
- ❑ **Learning and dissemination** – identifying and sharing learning and good practice.

Intermediary institutions

These functions may be undertaken by one or more ministries.

But there are advantages if they are devolved to an intermediary institution which can:

- ❑ Coordinate the contributions of ministries and government agencies
- ❑ Provide a professional and targeted service to both government and local partnerships
- ❑ Take an objective perspective distanced from sectoral interests

Pobal

Pobal is a national agency set up by the Irish government in 1992. It manages and supports Irish local partnerships, providing:

Development and strategic support to partnerships:

- ▣ Provision of guidelines and models of best practice
- ▣ Training in: finance, governance, social analysis, strategic planning, research

Management and monitoring of finance and performance

- ▣ Managing budgets and cash flows
- ▣ Audit and verification checks
- ▣ Monitoring performance, outcomes and impacts

Reporting and information functions

- ▣ Fulfilling formal reporting requirements to the relevant authorities
- ▣ Promotional activities

Supporting learning, analysis and evaluation

- ▣ Documenting good practice
- ▣ Facilitating networking and shared learning
- ▣ Supporting local research and undertaking studies

SUMMARY

Does national government provide clear but flexible guidelines for local development partnerships?

Is there effective co-ordination between national ministries to support local partnerships?

Does national government provide adequate support to local partnerships in terms of financial and human resources, capacity building, learning and dissemination of good practice?

Would an intermediate organisation be helpful in managing and supporting local partnerships?