



Ireland

Area based and Community Partnerships

Framework and setting

- Geographic scale** There are 38 Area-based Partnerships (in designated areas of disadvantage), 32 Community Partnerships (in other areas of disadvantage) and two Employment Pacts. Some of the Area-based Partnerships and the two Employment Pacts cover whole counties or municipalities. Other partnerships cover parts of counties or municipalities. The population covered by partnerships is approximately 2,900,000.
- Policy framework** The primary policy framework is the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (LDSIP), which is part of the Local Development measure within the National Development Plan (NDP). The LDSIP forms part of both of the Regional Operational Programmes in Ireland.

Partnerships at work

- Rationale** To respond to the multi-dimensional nature of social exclusion through a locally responsive, innovative, integrated approach, built on a partnership model, with local ownership.
- Objectives** The main objectives are to counter disadvantage and to promote equality and social and economic inclusion, through a partnership approach at local level. The Area-based Partnerships, Community Partnerships and Employment Pacts work in areas of greatest need in the country and target the most disadvantaged communities.
- Functions** The partnerships' multiple functions include, firstly, developing and implementing programmes and projects, secondly, facilitating strategic planning and practical co-ordination at local level among the Social Partners, statutory bodies, and the community and voluntary sector, and last but not least, leveraging additional funds from multiple sources.
- Policy areas** While actions under the LDSIP are integrated responses to the multi-dimensional nature of disadvantage, they are grouped into three measures, which are services for the unemployed (measure A), community development (measure B) and community-based youth initiatives (measure C).
- Policy tools/ Instruments** Representative actions include: (within measure A) employment guidance, advocacy with employers, tailored training programmes, support for new enterprises, and the Local Employment Service Network (which offers information, mediation and guidance services), (within measure B) development and pre-development work with target groups to build their capacity and organisational structures, and promotion of community participation in local development, and (within measure C) education access programmes, support for retention in school, study supports, capacity building for parents, developmental youth work.
- Timeframe** The first 12 Area-based Partnerships were set up in 1991 on a pilot basis. The current funding envelope by NDP covers all 72 Area-based Partnerships, Community Partnerships and Employment Pacts and runs from 2000 to 2006.
- Partners** The boards of all partnerships include representatives of local communities, Government bodies, the Social Partners and elected representatives.
- Contracts** All partnerships have contracts with Area Development Management Ltd (ADM), which manages the LDSIP on behalf of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Boards are required to be constituted on a partnership basis.
- Legal status** All partnerships are companies limited by guarantee, without share capital.

Sources of Financing The primary source is the LDSIP as part of the National Development Plan. Partnerships also leverage additional funds from a range of sources, such as e.g. National Government, EU, charitable foundations and businesses.

Results Between 2000 and 2004, the LDSIP supported 118,000 adults (54% female) under measure A, 5,000 community-based projects under B, and 244,000 young people and adults under C (53% female). Under measure A, 54% were supported into education and training, 17% into employment, and 12% into self-employment. Of those supported into education and training, 46% participated in certified education and training, of whom 49% achieved certification. Less easily quantifiable benefits include increased coordination at local level, mainstreaming of innovative actions, and strengthened community participation in local decision-making.

Partnerships' highlight

Programme/Project Low-Income Smallholder Households Initiative (LISHI)

Timeframe Initiated in 1998 (the current funding envelope by NDP runs from 2000 to 2006)

Objectives LISHI aims to develop innovative models of support for the increasing number of low-income households that work on farms that are not economically viable.

Activities 30 Area-based and Community Partnerships in rural areas implement LISHI. The activities include supporting individuals to supplement farm work with additional new enterprises, assisting individuals into education, training and employment and facilitating improvements in the viability of farm enterprises. In most participating partnerships, LISHI is supported by a dedicated 'Rural Resource Worker' who acts as a facilitator.

Results Between 2002 and 2004, LISHI supported more than 5,000 people to progress in a number of ways. During 2004, 31% of initiatives under the Services for the Unemployed measure in rural areas targeted smallholder farm households.

Contacts

Partnership co-ordination on national / sub-regional level

Contact for ADM, which manages the LDSIP on behalf of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs: ADM, Lola Cooney, Holbrook House, Holles Street, Dublin 2, Ireland, Tel.: +353 / 1 / 2400700, e-mail: lcooney@adm.ie
 Contact for Planet, the network of Area-based Partnerships: Planet, Brian Carty, 68 Main Street, Gorey, Co. Wexford, Ireland, e-mail: bcarty@planet.ie
 Contact for CPN, the network of Community Partnerships: Community Partnership Network, c/o Avondhu Development Group, Toni McCaul, 5-6 Park West, Mallow, Co. Cork, Ireland, e-mail: nationalcoordinator@eircom.net

Partnership co-ordinators on regional / local level

Contact details for all the local partnerships are available on the LDSIP pages of the ADM website: www.adm.ie