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## **REPORT ON THE PARTICIPATION TO NATIONAL WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY OTHER INTERSTRAT PARTNERS**

**Event:** *Work, Rest and Play: Planning for Functional Territories*

**Organized by:** ECP Ireland.

**Location:** Ballymascanlon House, Dundalk (Ireland).

**Date:** 7 April 2011, 14.00 – 17.00.

**Attendees from the Romanian ECP:** Oana Stoleriu and Daniel Tudora

### **Main activities.**

As Romanian ECP, we had the opportunity to participate in the open discussions around the cross border plan for Ireland and Northern Ireland. We shared some of our national experience on the cross border projects as well as opinions on the utility of some ESPON results (projects, concepts) linked to the topics discussed during the meeting.

We also had good informal discussions with some of the participants during the workshop breaks.

### **Relevance of the meeting with respect to the project objectives and implementation.**

#### **Transnational knowledge transfer.**

The first strategic **objective** of the INTERSTRAT project: *“to develop and apply a transnational approach to active knowledge transfer between ESPON scientists and policy makers and practitioners from the participating countries within ESPON”*.

The presentations and the open discussions during the meeting gave us the opportunity of a **deeper understanding of the Irish planning system** and of specific national approaches of the cross border development plans (specific challenges, opportunities and difficulties etc).



### **Improvement of the ECP's capacity.**

**Objective:** *To develop the ECPs and their networking by sharing knowledge and skills for delivery of the ECP role.*

The workshop and the discussions with the Irish ECP gave us an inside knowledge regarding the organization and specific challenges of a more specialized type of INTERSTRAT workshop, gathering practitioners and stakeholders from two different countries and administrative systems.

This knowledge is useful for the organization of similar events in Romania.

### **Bottom-up approach of integrated spatial strategies.**

**Objective** *“To support transnational interest in the preparation of integrated territorial development strategies, that can contribute to competitiveness and cohesion through development of Europe's regions.”*

The presentation of Michael Curran and Heather McKee on the **community centered planning** proved to be very interesting and very useful also for a potential promotion and implementation in the Romanian planning system.

The approach presented is also directly related to the general aim of ESPON INTERSTRAT – that of developing an integrated, bottom – up and efficient approach of the planning system, built on the local or **regional distinctiveness**.

### **Conclusions.**

Overall, the workshop was a very useful experience, with direct impact on improving our ECP role (especially in the *organization of national INTERSTRAT events*) and the promotion of new *approaches* of an integrated spatial planning (bottom-up process, community engagement, building on the distinctiveness of territories).

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