

Budapest Declaration Seminar Building Civil Society (A Scottish Perspective)

Key Points from the Community Development Theory and Research Workshop

- Communities should be further supported to commission and carry out their own research (e.g. SCARF);
- Research and evaluation evidence should be shared in an accessible manner and acted on by policy makers, funders, practitioners and community groups in and beyond Scotland;
- Research skills, training and capacity building should be promoted for all stakeholders through a national development project supported by the Scottish Executive;
- The Scottish Executive should commission a national 'development engine' to promote research and formation of Community Development theory in the context of all themes in the declaration. Its function should be to ensure support for and integration of academic and practice based research.

Key Points from the Community Development Policy and Legislation Workshop.

- The strong position of Scotland in terms of having a Minister for Communities, Community Planning and Community Engagement should be acknowledged.
- Promote a shared understanding of the values and processes which empower communities.
- Accept the inevitability of disagreement and debate as part of a healthy democracy.
- Create mechanisms which allow new policies and legislation to be proofed for their impact on Communities development.

Key Points from the Community Development and Rural Issues Workshop

- Community development must be about devolving real powers and appropriate resources to local communities, making use of existing local infrastructures, including community councils.
- Social, economic and environmental development are interdependent and indistinguishable, policy makers must appreciate this and act accordingly.
- The generic skill sets of community development workers must take account of diversity, and the social, economic and environmental specifics of rural areas.

Key Points From The Community Development Training Workshop

- The EU needs to facilitate a common framework for training and learning for community development values, knowledge and skills, with training materials based on best practices. The development of training is at present quite uneven..
- This common framework for learning needs to be developed from the bottom up based on dialogue with all stakeholders, and resourced and adapted for use in each member state, The common overarching framework should not be used to export any one particular political or economic perspective.

- Learning and training for community development and for active citizenship must be part of a continuum for lifelong learning and critical reflection – from citizenship education for children and young people through to the community activists and volunteers, professionals working with communities and decision-makers at different levels. There should be pathways which offer progression through and across different levels of learning and training.

Key Points from The Community Development and Urban Regeneration Workshop

- General principles, guidance and intended outcomes should be set at national level but interpretation and allocation of funding should be decided at local level within the Community Planning Partnership processes.
- Changing culture is crucial at all levels and across all partners, including Scottish Executive (e.g. national silos on policy, targets and funding initiatives)
- Resourcing of community development, not just community engagement, is essential for sustainable regeneration, this will involve capacity building of sustainable community organisations

Key Points From The Community Development, Lifelong Learning and Cultural Development Workshop

- Policies should develop and reflect a deeper understanding of different cultures in local contexts.
- The balance of new policy and funding developments needs to be more sensitive to the pace of community life.
- Promote the integration of formal and informal learning by the adoption of the term lifelong learning, in order that funding and policy direction be changed to recognise the need to learn for life.

Key Points From The Community Development And Social Economy Workshop

- The social economy – which in Scotland has almost doubled in size in less than ten years – should be recognised as a very substantial sector.
- Funding regimes should be brought into proper alignment with good organisational practice within the social economy, including “bending the spend” rather than setting up new initiatives.
- A “venture capital” culture needs to be established within both social economy and funding organisations.
- Mechanisms should be put in place to promote, facilitate and support the effective networking and transfer of good practice between social economy organisations.