



Participation Matters!

Engaging with Anti-Poverty Strategy in Scotland

Why does it matter?

1. Inability to participate in society



2. Ongoing engagement can provide new insights and solutions



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3. Direct participation can undermine **stereotypical views and attitudes**



4. In the **long term**, greater participation will enhance local democracy, legitimacy and social cohesion

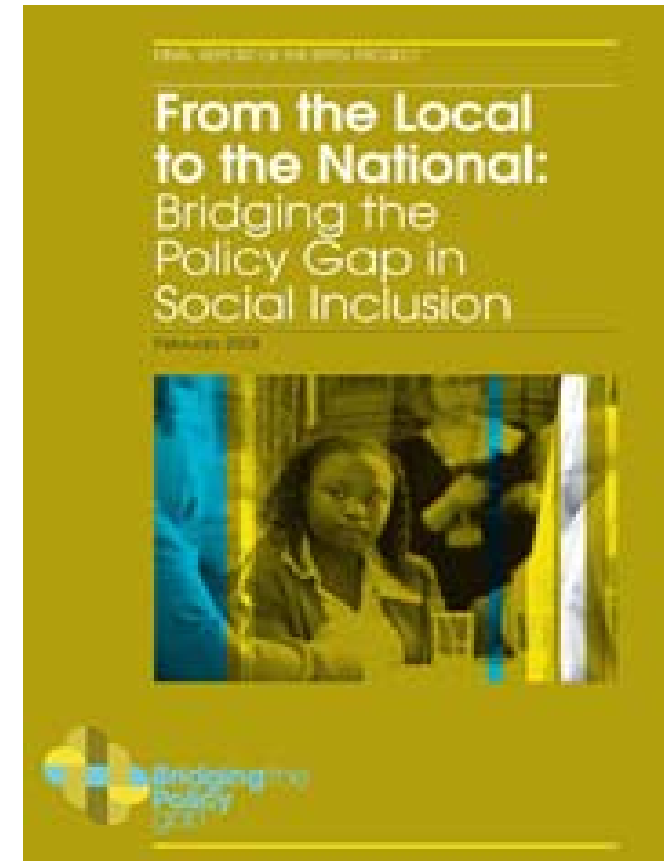


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Bridging the Policy Gap

- **Local implementation** of national strategies
- All actors involved
- **Influenced new approaches** at local level
- Developed new skills & experience amongst local groups





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- **Longer term project**
- **€900K**
- **3 staff for 4 years**
- **Embed participatory process into Scottish policy development**

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- Stakeholder Forum with Scottish Government
- National Assembly for Tackling Poverty
- Commitment to participation process in anti-poverty strategy
- Involvement at all levels





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Some key lessons

- ✓ Time
- ✓ Independence
- ✓ Political commitment
- ✓ Resources