Research Seminar

Community Engagement in Urban Regeneration: Evidence from England's New Deal for Communities Programme

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Abstract:

For many years UK governments have addressed problems of urban poverty through area-based schemes designed to address social and economic problems in pockets of deprivation in major cities and towns. The 1998-2010 New Deal for Communities (NDC) programme is one of the most intensive regeneration schemes ever launched in England. In 39 deprived localities, typically housing about 10,000 people, local residents worked with agencies such as the police and schools to drive forward ten year improvement strategies each funded by £50m from central government. The community was to be at the heart of the initiative. Although some individuals benefited from NDC projects, there was little to suggest a great deal of change in relation to many social and community indicators. This experience may be relevant to regeneration and development programmes in contexts other than the UK.

About the Speaker:

Professor Paul Lawless: Professor of Urban Policy, Sheffield Hallam University
Director: National evaluation of the New Deal for Communities Programme 2000-2010
Adviser: UK government departments, the European Commission, the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development.