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With the support of the **International Fund for Ireland**, ICLRDR will undertake applied research and develop training programmes to support innovative approaches to local development in cross-border micro-regions and community development initiatives in interface communities.

Interface Communities

The objective is to document emerging initiatives in addressing interface communities and integrated housing and develop recommendations for adopting initiatives in a broader context. The focus will be larger than “housing” and be linked to the spatial aspects of community development. ICLRDR would also bring to bear international best practices and programmes from other housing authorities on the island, the EU and elsewhere. The work done-to-date with the NI Housing Executive, the Centre for Cross Border Studies and ICLRDR to establish a collaborative forum on sustainable communities will also be drawn upon.

Local Development in Cross-Border Micro-Regions

The ICLRDR will collaborate with practitioners to learn from practice how successful approaches to reconciliation, social inclusion, and local economic development can effectively address interface and cross-border areas. This research was initially chosen given the considerable revitalization work that the International Fund for Ireland has done in the Strabane/Lifford area. The research will review the experience of other smaller cross-border micro regions with a particular focus on identifying best practices in joined-up revitalization efforts and harmonizing planning and development efforts. Applicable cross-border EU activities could also be identified based on previous research undertaken by ICLRDR.