



Special EU Programmes Body  
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE  
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projecks



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **PEACE III PROGRAMME DELIVERS LOCAL SUPPORT TO NEWRY & MOURNE**

Now approaching its fourth year the European Union funded PEACE III Programme continues to deliver on its core objective of promoting peace and reconciliation to local communities across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Under its 'Building Positive Relations' theme the programme has approved over £4.2 million of financial support on a cross-community basis to people living within the Newry & Mourne Council area.

Delivered through a Local Peace Action Plan, developed and managed by lead partner Newry & Mourne District Council, the support is being used to help reduce levels sectarianism, promote reconciliation and increased multi-cultural integration.

Provided to projects which can demonstrate cross-community reach, a significant amount of the funding has already been drawn down and is having a tangible impact at a local level.

Projects supported to date include the 'Challenge for Change' initiative, designed to increase community cohesion and reduce levels of sectarianism and racism as well as the establishment of Good Relations Forums at community interface areas, amongst many others.

The support forms part of a larger allocation of €90-100 million for the theme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, which will be available over the life-time of the PEACE III Programme, up to 2013.

This represents a sizeable percentage of the overall €333 million worth of assistance that makes up the total value of the programme.

Commenting on the success of the programme to date, Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB said:

“PEACE III places a greater emphasis on supporting strategic and iconic projects with inherent longevity. The Programme also seeks to enhance working relationships between local authorities and social partners.

“By making sure that the projects we fund fully utilise the support offered through the European Union we are ensuring that the programme will be able to create an enduring legacy long after its completion,” he continued.

With a strong emphasis on local partnership, PEACE III encourages the formation of partnership structures that address shared issues and concerns.

Local Councils in Northern Ireland have formed eight clusters, incorporating partnership structures, to develop and implement strategic multi-annual action plans aimed at addressing the needs of their local communities and building positive relations at a local level.

The Southern Cluster includes Armagh, Craigavon, Banbridge, Newry and Mourne. Community and voluntary groups are encouraged to contact their local authority for information on their Cluster’s Peace and Reconciliation Plan which may contain a small grants scheme and opportunities to tender for the delivery of projects.

- ENDS.

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## Notes to Editors :

### SEUPB

- The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Finance in Ireland. It is responsible for managing two EU structural funds Programmes PEACE III and INTERREG IVA designed to enhance cross-border co-operation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society.
- The programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and in the case of INTERREG IVA, Western Scotland.
- The PEACE III Programme is worth €333 million and is aimed primarily at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation. It focuses on helping Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland to reconcile communities and contribute towards a shared society.
- For more information on the SEUPB please visit [www.seupb.e](http://www.seupb.e)