

**COMPOSITION OF STEERING COMMITTEE FOR PEACE III (2007-2013)  
PROGRAMME**

**1. Purpose of paper**

1.1 In accordance with the implementation arrangements noted in the Operational Programme for PEACE III, SEUPB is seeking approval from the Monitoring Committee for the establishment of three PEACE III Steering Committees required to enable SEUPB to commence the assessment of projects.

**2. Background**

2.1 Responsibility for the selection of projects is delegated to a Steering Committee as outlined in Article 19 of Council Regulation (EU) No 1080/2006. This paper sets out a proposal for three Steering Committees to be formed to reflect the two Priorities of the Programme. The Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) within SEUPB, as defined by Article 14 of Council Regulation (EU) No 1080/2006, will provide support to the Steering Committees to ensure that they can fulfil their appointed role.

2.2 Unlike the INTERREG IIIA Programme a Steering Committee did not feature in the PEACE II Programme. A range of Implementing Bodies were responsible for the selection of projects.

2.3 The PEACE II Programme and the PEACE II extension were characterised by significant decentralised delivery. In Northern Ireland, Government Departments, the Intermediary Funding Bodies (IFBs) and Local Strategy

Partnerships (LSPs) were responsible for delivering most of the Programme, with resource allocation mainly on the basis of open calls for project proposals. Similarly, in the Border Region of Ireland, implementation was largely through an Intermediary Funding Body and County Council Led Task Forces.

2.4 The ex-post evaluation of PEACE I and mid-term evaluation of PEACE II, concluded that these structures had contributed in a positive way to the processes of community empowerment and engagement. Local partnerships have also been important in creating opportunities for local dialogue between social partners and locally elected representatives.

### **3. Lessons learned**

3.1 Despite the significant merits in this approach, the large number of delivery bodies contributed to the perception of an overly complex Programme. The implementation of the PEACE II Programme included 34 Measures and 22 sub-Measures, 56 implementing bodies plus consortia members, 7 paying authorities, 4 Structural Funds and 5 Horizontal Principles.

3.2 During public consultation in relation to the PEACE III Programme, there was a widespread desire expressed for a decrease in the number of delivery bodies and the overall simplification of Programme structures. In addition, the reduced overall budget for the Programme and the stipulation that a maximum of 6 per cent can be allocated to Technical Assistance (Article 46 of Council Regulation (EU) No 1083/2006) requires that there is a significant change in delivery arrangements.

3.3 The mid term update of the INTERREG III Programme, where Steering Committees did feature, commented that the SEUPB as Steering Committee Chair should ensure that all members are clear on the Committee's role and remit to maximise the Committee's effectiveness and efficiency. Consequently, at the outset of PEACE III, the SEUPB will organise a detailed induction programme for Steering Committee members to take place as soon as practical after appointment. There is also a recognised need for Steering

Committees to contain a level of expertise to provide technical and/or specialist advice.

#### **4. Changes in Programme Implementation**

4.1 Unlike PEACE II the principal delivery mechanism for the PEACE III Programme will be the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) which will be responsible for:

- Creation of a project pipeline by issuing calls for proposals in line with the criteria defined in the Operational Programme and agreed by the Monitoring Committee;
- Assessing project proposals for consideration by the relevant Steering Committee;
- Providing secretariat services to the Steering Committees;
- Issuing letters of offer to successful project applicants; and
- Maintaining monitoring records on behalf of the Programme and entering these into the database.

#### **5. Proposal for establishment of three Steering Committees**

5.1 The Steering Committees will be constituted on a cross-border basis, reflect the principles of partnership and have the necessary technical expertise and independence to assess operations for funding. In order to provide a more efficient and effective working model, it is recommended that the number of Steering Committee Members is kept to a minimum.

5.2 Having taken account of the significant structural changes in Programme implementation and the content of the Peace III Programme, it is proposed that

there should be **three** Steering Committees to select the operations for the Programme as detailed below.

### **Steering Committee No 1 - Building positive relations**

- 5.3 Building on the experiences and learning of local partnerships in the PEACE I and II Programmes and maintaining the unique bottom up and participative approach, the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) will invite applicants to submit proposals on a partnership basis for local Programmes that contribute to the stated outputs and results in this Priority axis as specified in the Operational Programme.
- 5.4 This approach will ensure that local authorities in the Border Region are involved in the Programme through Task Forces and Integrated Partnerships for activities that fall within their delegated authority and are included in the areas of intervention in the Programme. Similarly, local authorities in Northern Ireland will be invited to be involved in the Programme through a leadership role in developing proposals for their areas in partnership with others. They will be encouraged to form clusters and take advantage of the competence and capacity that has been built up through participation in Local Strategy Partnerships.
- 5.5 The Steering Committee will be responsible for approving the multi-annual programmes of action thus proposed. To assist in this task the Joint Technical Secretariat will commission technical support from relevant statutory bodies with a remit for community development and community relations (i.e. Border Action and the Community Relations Council in Northern Ireland) to assist local authorities in the development of Programmes that will maximise the contribution towards the Programme objectives.
- 5.6 In recognition that some dimensions of building positive relationships may be best developed at a regional level and on a cross-border basis, the Steering Committee may instruct the Joint Technical Secretariat to make specific calls for proposals to address issues of a more strategic nature. Such proposals may include actions to ensure the active involvement of women, youth or other identified groups in strategic actions that contribute to the Programme objectives.

## **Steering Committee No 2 - Acknowledging and dealing with the past**

- 5.7 This element of the priority will be implemented by Border Action and the Community Relations Council (CRC) as outlined in the Operational Programme. The bodies will be awarded a global grant, within the meaning of the Article 42 of Council Regulation (EU) No 1083/2006.
- 5.8 Both organisations will be responsible for establishing a Steering Committee on the same basis as above. Border Action and CRC will provide the secretariat duties for this committee.
- 5.9 The Steering Committee will comprise of 4 members nominated from the Board of CRC and 4 members nominated from the Management Committee of Border Action. The Accountable Departments (OFM/DFM and DCRGA) will also be represented. SEUPB as Managing Authority will have observer status at meetings while expertise can be procured as and when required by the Steering Committee.

## **Steering Committee No 3 – Contributing to a Shared Society**

- 5.10 The Steering Committee will instruct the Joint Technical Secretariat to make specific calls for proposals from appropriate bodies that will contribute to the stated outputs and results of this Priority axis as specified in the Operational Programme. It is envisaged that a small number of strategic projects will be funded and that public bodies will normally act as project promoters for these projects working in partnership with other private and community stakeholders.
- 5.11 With regard to developing Key Institutional Capacities for a Shared Society, the Steering Committee will instruct the Joint Technical Secretariat to make specific calls for proposals to contribute to stated outputs and results of this Priority axis. It is envisaged that these projects will be strategic in nature.

## **6. Members and advisors to steering committees**

## **Members**

6.1 To ensure that all Steering Committees are representative of the eligible region, their composition will mirror that of the Monitoring Committee, with the following sectors requiring representation on each Committee:

- Member States
- Accountable Departments
- Local Representation
- Social Partners
- Representatives of the Cross Cutting Themes
- SEUPB

## **Technical Advisors**

6.2 The Steering Committee will determine whether technical expertise is required. If such expertise is required it will be procured by SEUPB.

## **7. Steering committee composition**

7.1 It is proposed that the Steering Committees will be represented as follows;

Chair (SEUPB)	1
Member States (DFP and DOF)	2
Accountable Departments	2
Local Representation	2
Social Partners	2
Cross Cutting	1

A quorum of 6 will be required for each meeting.

7.2 It is SEUPB's intention to hold the first Steering Committee meetings within 2 weeks of the Monitoring Committee. To meet this date, it is essential that

agreement is reached on the composition of the Steering Committees. Members who wish to nominate for the Steering Committees, particularly those representing local areas, social partners and cross cutting themes should discuss with colleagues beforehand.

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1 The Monitoring Committee is requested to:

- **Agree** the establishment of two Steering Committees
- **Propose** and **agree** membership of the Steering Committees;
- **Note** that technical expertise will be appointed as and when required to aid the Steering Committee decisions.