

WORKING GROUPS IN THE PEACE III (2007-2013) PROGRAMME

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Monitoring Committee with information on Working Groups, their role and membership. In relation to Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/06 (Article 63), SEUPB should set up a Monitoring Committee for the PEACE III Programme. The Monitoring Committee's main task is to ensure the effectiveness of the implementation of the Programme. As with the 2000-2006 Programme, a number of Working Groups will be established to assist the Monitoring Committee to discharge its responsibilities.

2. Membership

- 2.1 Membership of the Working Groups will be approved by the Monitoring Committee and will include Monitoring Committee Members and other individuals with relevant expertise or experience. Similar to the Monitoring Committee membership and where appropriate there should be a balance between men and women, community background and urban and rural interests. Membership should, if possible, be drawn from a broad geographical base. Each Working Group will be chaired by a Member of the Monitoring Committee and supported by SEUPB who will provide the secretariat duties.

3. Role

- 3.1 Working Groups will be a source of specialist advice to the Monitoring Committee and will have the capacity to commission informative research and evaluations relevant to their area of interest.

- 3.2 Working Groups will also contribute to the overall monitoring and planning of actions arising from reviews and will be an important contributor to the coordination of the Operational Programmes. The Working Groups will provide scope for networking among its members and advisors.
- 3.3 It is important to note that the Working Groups should not duplicate the work of the Monitoring Committee and will have no decision making role.

4 Terms of Reference

- 4.1 Each Working Group shall propose its own Terms of Reference to the Monitoring Committee for approval. It should establish at the earliest point, a work plan which should be updated regularly. It is expected that Working Groups should meet at least once a year and report on activity at least once each calendar year.

5 Proposed Working Groups

- 5.1 The Managing Authority recommends that a Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group is established to oversee the production of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the Programme. It is proposed that this Working Group will be drawn from the membership of the PEACE III and INTERREG IV Monitoring Committees and that the group will work across both Programmes and report to both Monitoring Committees.
- 5.2 In addition, the Northern Ireland Sustainable Competitiveness Programmes for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme are currently establishing Working Groups in the following areas:
- Environmental Working Group;
 - Equality Working Group; and

- Innovation and Mainstreaming Working Group.

5.3 It is recommended that the PEACE III and INTERREG IV Monitoring Committees nominate Members to participate in these groups in order to ensure complementarities across all EU funded Programmes operating within Northern Ireland. Consideration will also be given to ensuring an element of shared membership of any relevant Working Group operating in Ireland. The Managing Authority will keep members up to date on these developments.

5.4 The Monitoring Committee can decide on the constitution of further ad hoc Working Groups if it requires specific works to be carried out.

6 Recommendation.

6.1 The Monitoring Committee is requested to:

- **Approve** the establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group that will work across both the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes;
- **Approve** that representatives from the Monitoring Committee participate on the three working groups identified for Northern Ireland;
- **Consider** any other areas that may require the establishment of a working group;
- **Complete** the nomination form in relation to participation on the Working Groups (This nomination form will be made available at the Monitoring Committee meeting).