

**PEACE III Programme (2007-2013)**  
**Working Group Report**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008**

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**PURPOSE OF PAPER**

To provide the Monitoring Committee with information and an update on each of the Working Groups connected with PEACE III.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Members of the Monitoring Committee are requested to note the progress of the Working Groups.

## Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group.

Following the inaugural Programme Monitoring Committee meetings for the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2007, the Managing Authority sought nominations for membership of the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group from the members of both PMCs. Fourteen members or their representatives were appointed, along with four Managing Authority staff. The membership of the group is as follows:

<b>Working Group Member</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Sector</b>
Martin Tyrrell	PEACE III/INTERREG IVA	Member State Representative (DFP)
Annette Connolly	PEACE III/INTERREG IVA	Member State Representative (DOF)
Melissa Mackin	INTERREG IVA	Member State Representative (Scotland)
Gerry Finn	PEACE III/INTERREG IVA	Local Government (BMW)
Hubert Nicholl	INTERREG IVA	Local Government (NILGA)
James Daly	PEACE III/INTERREG IVA	Local Government (BMW)
Denis Galway	PEACE III/INTERREG IVA	Social & Economic Partners (JBC)
Siobhan Fitzpatrick		Social & Economic Partners (NICVA)
Carol Turnbull	INTERREG IVA	Social & Economic Partners (Scotland)
Ken Bush	PEACE III	Independent PEACE III PMC Member
Adrian McNamee	PEACE III/INTERREG IVA	SEUPB Managing Authority
Bernard McClure	Advisors	Accountable Department (DOE)
Celeste McCallion	Advisor	NISRA
Kyriacos Charalambous	Advisor	European Commission
Fernando-Jose Coelho-Moniz	Advisor	European Commission
Lisa McMullan	Advisor	SEUPB Managing Authority
Sarah Reid	Advisor	SEUPB Managing Authority
Andrew Minnis	Advisor	SEUPB Managing Authority

The first meeting of the group was held in Ballybot House, Newry on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008. Since there were relatively few members present, the appointment of a chair was deferred until the second meeting. However, the group agreed Terms of Reference and considered draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plans for each Programme and made recommendations.

The group's Terms of Reference specify a number of key roles and responsibilities:

- To provide a source of specialist advice to the Monitoring Committees;
- To commission research and evaluations relevant to monitoring and feed into the overall Programme planning and review process;
- To agree a draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for each Programme for approval of the Monitoring Committee;
- To monitor and report against the agreed Context, Priority and Sub-Priority indicators and undertake detailed quantitative and qualitative monitoring and evaluation as required;
- To complete a full evaluation of the Programme during its life-time;
- To consider the Annual Implementation Report for the programme.

Updated versions of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plans for both PEACE III and INTERREG IVA were considered along with a draft paper on 'Definitions and Methods of Collection'. A proposed work plan for the Working Group was presented which included confirmation of the dates for quarterly meetings. Draft Annual Implementation Reports for both PEACE III and INTERREG IVA were presented and comments were given by the group, and the findings of the 2007 Attitudinal Survey were presented. Finally, Border Action representative presented a summary of a range of thematic evaluations from the PEACE II Programme.

The date of the next meeting was set for 10<sup>th</sup> June at a venue in Northern Ireland which will be confirmed.

## Equality Working Group.

The mainstreaming Equality Working Group comprises representatives of the Northern Ireland Competitiveness and Employment Programmes, along with those from the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes. The secretariat function for the group is provided by Department of Finance and Personnel. Following the nomination process initiated at the inaugural Programme Monitoring Committee meetings for both PEACE III and INTERREG IVA in November 2007 a total of three members of the PEACE III / INTERREG IVA Programmes were appointed to serve on the group along with one member of Managing Authority staff attending in an advisory capacity:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Sector</b>
Siobhan O'Donoghue	PEACE III	Social and Economic Partners (CWC)
Pamela Dooley	PEACE III	Social and Economic Partners (ICTU)
Michael Hughes	PEACE III / INTERREG IVA	Agriculture/Rural Development (RCN)
Lisa McElherron	C&E	Voluntary and Community Sector (NICVA)
Bob Collins	C&E	Equality (Equality Commission)
Maeve McClaughlin	C&E	Local Government
Mealla Bratton	C&E	Local Government
Jim Deery	C&E	Voluntary and Community Sector (Ashton Community Trust)
Jim Dewhurst	Advisor	DEL
Dale Heaney	Advisor	OFMDFM
Melanie Morrow	Advisor	NISRA
Andrew Minnis	Advisor	SEUPB Managing Authority
Damian Fitzpatrick	Advisor	DETI
Linsey Moore	Advisor	DFP

The group met on two occasions, 9<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

At its first meeting the group was unable to appoint a chair and vice chair, agreeing to defer the item until its second meeting. Consideration was then given to the group's Terms of Reference using the document from the

previous Programme period as a starting point. A number of amendments were proposed, including the need to be mindful of relevant equality legislation from all the jurisdictions involved in the Programmes.

The draft Guidance Note on Equality of Opportunity within EU Structural Funds (Guidance Note No 9) was also considered by the group. DFP advised that the note had been circulated to all departments for comment before being circulated to the Managing Authorities as a basis for producing their own guidance. The Working Group was asked to review the note and make recommendations for implementation by the Managing Authorities.

At its second meeting the group appointed a chair (Bob Collins, NI Equality Commission) and vice-chair (Lisa McElheron, NICVA) and reviewed the equality guidance note and a revised version of the draft Terms of Reference . The secretariat will consider the group's comments when reviewing the guidance note and will circulate a final draft of the Terms of Reference for approval by members of the group by written procedure in advance of the next meeting. Once these have been finalised, budgets and a Programme of work will be tabled for consideration at the next meeting.

The date and venue for the next meeting remain to be confirmed.

### **Environmental Working Group**

A representative of the Managing Authority in SEUPB has attended the first two meetings of the Environmental Working Group as an advisor for both the PEACE III and INTERREG IV Programmes.

The inaugural meeting which was held 5<sup>th</sup> December 2007 had representation across the sectors and from the four Programmes, namely; the Competitiveness and Employment Programme, the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme; PEACE III and INTERREG IV Programmes. Five members of the INTERREG IVA/PEACE III Monitoring

Committee were appointed to serve on the group along with one member of SEUPB staff attending as an advisor:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Sector</b>
Lucinda Blakiston-Houston (Chair)	Council for Nature Conservation and Countryside (CNCC)
Terry Savage	Border Regional Authority (BRA)
Councillor Hubert Nicholl	Local Elected Representative
John Anderson	Council for Nature Conservation and Countryside (CNCC)
Councillor James Daly	BMW Regional Authority
Sarah Reid	SEUPB Managing Authority

A draft Terms of Reference based on those used by the Environmental Working Group in the previous round of Structural Funds was tabled for discussion with minimal recommendations for amendments.

DFP as Secretariat issued the draft Guidance on Developmental Path Analysis (DPA) for consideration. The main changes outlined referred to amendments to terminology and the change of path classification from a 1-6 number style to (a) to (f). The group agreed to submit any further comments in advance of the next meeting.

The second meeting of the Environmental Working Group took place on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008 and was again attended by representation from the four programmes. Lucinda Blakiston-Houston, CNCC was confirmed as chair and Brian Murphy, CNCC as vice-chair. The Terms of Reference were approved by the working group with no recommendations for amendments.

DFP tabled a proposed budget outlining a financial allocation from Technical Assistance throughout the life of the Programmes with the main allocation between 2008-2012. It was explained that any research commissioned by the group which would benefit all four programmes would be paid for between the

four programmes. The group was requested to consider the proposed budget and comment at the next meeting.

The group was invited by the chair to suggest content for the work plan across the programme period. It was agreed that as all programmes are at an early stage of implementation and undertaking project selection, it would be an ideal time to assess the implementation of the Developmental Path Analysis (DPA) and how information at the scoring stage was being recorded. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting with ideas for researching the information.

Finally, the group discussed the importance of sharing best practice not only with other programmes in Northern Ireland but within the UK and Europe. The chair agreed and recommended that the group also utilize knowledge within the Managing Authorities and government departments such as the Environment and Heritage Service.

The next meeting of the Environmental Working Group is due to take place 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008.