

**PEACE III PROGRAMME (2007-2013) – WORKING GROUP REPORT**

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**Reported by**

**INTERREG IVA/PEACE III Joint WG**

Monitoring and Evaluation  
Working Group

to be confirmed

**EU Structural Funds 2007-2013**

**Working Groups**

Environmental Working Group  
Equality Working Group

to be confirmed  
Michael Hughes

**PURPOSE OF PAPER**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **1.0 Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group**

The Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group has met twice, 10 June 2008 and 16 September 2008, since the last Monitoring Committee meeting in Buncrana on 23 April 2008.

At its meeting on 10 June 2008, James Daly, BMW Representative, was appointed Chair and it was agreed that the position of Chair would be reviewed on an annual basis. Also, Pauline Donnan, OFMDFM, joined the group in an advisory capacity.

The main areas considered by the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group at its quarterly meetings are:

### **1.1 Programme Implementation**

Information considered to date includes a breakdown of the number and value of applications received, and Steering Committee activity including application approvals. This is monitored against overall programme targets and enables the group to identify any issues that may emerge.

### **1.2 Monitoring and Evaluation Plans**

The group oversees the implementation of both the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Monitoring and Evaluations Plans. This has included a review of definitions papers that support both PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programme indicators as detailed in the Plans. The group is continuing to support NISRA in finalising these papers.

At its most recent meeting, the group considered the PEACE III Programme's need for contextual and attitudinal research and have agreed for the Managing Authority to work up proposals for undertaking a 'Community Relations' survey across the whole of the eligible area (Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland); and a 'Community Relations/Attitudinal' survey of programme participants. These will be considered by the group at its next meeting.

With regard to INTERREG IVA, further consideration will be given to agreeing evaluation priorities at a forthcoming programme stakeholder event.

### **1.3 Other Information**

The group considers examples of good practices and innovation in monitoring and evaluation. In particular, the Good Relations Indicators Baseline Report, presented by the OFMDFM colleague; and Aid for Peace Approach, which was presented and discussion led by the NISRA colleague.

The next meeting will be held on 16 December 2008 in Belfast.

## **2.0 Equality Working Group (EQWG)**

The Equality Working Group has met twice, 30 June 2008 and 15 September 2008, since the last Monitoring Committee meeting. The EQWG considered the following:

### **2.1 Work Plan**

The group has agreed a Draft Work Programme for 2008 including:

1. Examination of equality responses and scoring in applications to date.
2. Identify any recommendations to be made to Managing Authorities from Item 1.
3. Identify best ways of continuing to influence the process.
4. Conduct an equality audit on the membership of monitoring committees, working and steering groups and selection panels.
5. Review and update the 'Mainstreaming Equality' guide, including integrating the recently-issued procurement guidance.
6. Identify the approach for monitoring the effectiveness of projects in meeting our equality objectives.

There was discussion on each of the items of the Work Plan and it was agreed that two sub-groups would be formed to take forward current priority items.

- 1) The sub-group undertaking the review of the 'Mainstreaming Equality' Guide
- 2) The sub-group to examine the equality responses and scoring in applications across programmes.

### **2.2 Competitiveness Programme and the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)**

For information, it was noted that the benefits of undertaking an EQIA occur at the programme development stage; therefore, it was agreed at this stage that, it would

be more beneficial for the EQWG to focus on influencing the delivery of equality across the programme rather than undertake an impact assessment.

Both sub-groups have met and are taking work priorities forward before next meeting will be held in early 2009; NICVA offered to host the meeting.

### **3.0 Environmental Working Group**

The Environmental Working Group held a meeting on 21 May 2008. At this meeting, there were discussions regarding:

#### **3.1 Proposed Work Plan for 2008**

This involved the comparative examination of indicators but it was stressed that the group should avoid duplication in the monitoring of environmental strategies and indicators. It was decided that the secretariat would amalgamate relevant indicators and produce tables of comparison for circulation amongst members.

#### **3.2 Producing Guidelines on Environmental Policies**

It was agreed that a sub-group, with each of the three programmes Managing Authorities represented, would be set-up to consider this in more detail and prepare a proposal for the next Working Group meeting. The initial meeting of the sub-group was held on Wednesday 17 September. DEL provided a copy of their paper on how to write an Environmental Policy and, having reviewed this guide, the group agreed it would, with minor amendment, meet their needs. DFP agreed to amend the DEL document and forward it to all members of the Environmental Working Group for comment.

#### **3.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) compliance and indicators**

An update on SEA compliance was provided for each of the Programmes. SEAs for both PEACE III and INTERREG IVA have been completed.

#### **3.4 Programme reports on cross-cutting theme**

It was noted that the work is ongoing between DETI and NISRA in relation to DPA. It was agreed that each Managing Authority would produce written reports on DPA for future working meetings.

### **3.5 Other Information**

- The Chair of group, Lucinda Blakiston-Houston, has attended the fourth Annual Environmental Ireland Conference 2008.
- DEL had circulated a draft document, 'How to Write an Environmental Policy' produced to assist projects meet this Letter of Offer requirement to have an environmental policy.

The date for the next meeting is to be confirmed.