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

Autumn 2014

YOUR EU!

An update on the European
Union's PEACE III and
INTERREG IVA Programmes

'Fighting fit' at the launch of Glen Community Complex!



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 – 2013

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Welcome

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YOUR EU!

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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 Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. The Body was established on 2 December 1999, under the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland (8 March 1999), which created the implementing bodies.

The Special EU Programmes Body's principal function is to provide the Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat functions for the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Territorial Co-operation Programmes (2007–2013). It also has a signposting and supporting role for projects wanting to engage with the INTERREG IVB Transnational and INTERREG IVC Inter-regional Programmes.

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Editorial and Production Management:
John McCandless
Copy Writing: John McCandless

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Foreword

Welcome to the autumn edition of Your EU, which features the latest news from a wide range of projects which are funded under the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA programmes.

It has been another busy period for the SEUPB, with the launch of five capital build projects, two conference events and a significant investment in the cross-border Northern Ireland/Ireland rail network.

Approximately €21.45m of INTERREG funding has been awarded to two separate cross-border railway projects which will significantly enhance the transport infrastructure of the region. Scheduled for completion in 2015, the projects will involve a major upgrade of the Belfast to Dublin 'Enterprise' service and a major refurbishment of the Drogheda Viaduct.

Meanwhile, in the Lenadoon and Suffolk area of West Belfast, an impressive new purpose built community resource centre has been unveiled at the Glen Community Complex. The £4.5m new facility, funded by the PEACE III Programme and Atlantic Philanthropies, will house much needed community support services

which include crèche facilities, after school club, healthy living programmes, education and training, family support, counselling and youth services.

In Derry~Londonderry, the construction phase of the PEACE III funded Siege Museum and Shared Space Visitors Centre has commenced. The Centre is part of a £3.7 million project that includes the renovation of the Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall. It is designed to educate people about the Great Siege of 1689, building upon the cross-community outreach work already undertaken by the Apprentice Boys of Derry.

In the Border Region, the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, officially opened 'The Peace Link'; an iconic €7.8 million PEACE III funded cross-community sports complex in Clones, County Monaghan. The core objective of the facility will be to encourage greater levels of positive cross-community engagement through a shared interest in sport.

Our in-depth feature gets 'under the wing' of HELP, RSPB's Halting Environmental Loss Project, which has been doing award-winning work with farmers in Northern



Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and the west of Scotland to encourage them to manage their land to the benefit of a range of bird species which are at risk of being lost forever.

If you have any feedback on this edition of Your EU or suggestions for content for future editions, please contact the SEUPB's Communications Team at communications@seupb.eu

**Pat Colgan - Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body**

FOREWORD...

'On the right track' with EU railway investment

PROJECT NEWS

Approximately €21.45m of funding has been awarded to two separate cross-border railway projects that will significantly enhance the transport infrastructure of the region, on a cross-border basis. Supported through the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme, both projects are scheduled for completion in 2015.

£12.2m of the funding award has been allocated to a major upgrade of the Belfast to Dublin 'Enterprise' service. The project involves a significant overhaul of the train's mechanical systems, new interiors, new livery, replacement of the Passenger

Information System and a completely new electronic passenger reservation system.

Over €6m has also been awarded to a major refurbishment of the Drogheda Viaduct. Originally built in 1885 the viaduct supports the main Dublin-Belfast railway line and is in need of prioritised investment to ensure its long-term efficient operation.

Match funding for the projects has been supplied by the Department for Regional Development (DRD) in Northern Ireland and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) in Ireland.

It is anticipated that the 'Enterprise' overhaul will ensure the long-term reliability of the service and the newly designed interiors and improved passenger features will increase customer satisfaction and encourage potentially increased usage.

The Drogheda Viaduct project will involve a number of essential refurbishment activities including steel repairs and full re-painting, renewal of track work over the viaduct; waterproofing of the deck, and installation of a new drainage system.

The Drogheda Viaduct, which will benefit from a major refurbishment thanks to €6m of INTERREG funding.



SCENE is set for Scotland's most beautiful classroom

The Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland Professor Muffy Calder recently opened a £3m state-of-the-art teaching extension at the Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment (SCENE), Scotland's flagship centre for ecological field research.

The event marked the completion of a total replacement of SCENE's facilities which began with the development of a £3.6m research wing, that was opened in 2007.

Located on the shores of Loch Lomond, SCENE is the University of Glasgow's environmental science field station. Established in 1946

as the first of its kind in the UK, SCENE's access to Loch Lomond's pristine aquatic and terrestrial environments makes it ideal for research, teaching and training in ecology and environmental science.

SCENE researchers' work on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems addresses fundamental and applied questions in ecology, evolutionary biology, physiology and disease ecology.

Professor Calder said:
"Scotland's natural landscape has inspired people for generations, and this is a wonderful setting for science research. Scientists at SCENE

are well placed to help us understand more about our environment, and to give us the tools we need to make best use of it and protect it for years to come."

The Harry Slack Teaching Building provides a major boost to SCENE's undergraduate and postgraduate education facilities. It incorporates a new lecture theatre, teaching laboratory, specialist stores and accommodation for 45 students and teachers.

In addition to public donations, SCENE's expansion was also supported by funding from the EU INTERREG IVA-funded IBIS project. IBIS, which stands for Integrated Aquatic Resources Management Between Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland, is an £8m collaboration with Queen's University Belfast and the Loughs Agency. The project is working to protect aquatic resources across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

For more information about SCENE, visit <http://www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/bahcm/researchfacilities/groups/scene/>

Pictured at the launch of the SCENE extension are (left to right): Professor Colin Adams, IBIS, University of Glasgow; Lorraine McCourt, Director, SEUPB; Professor Muffy Calder, Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland and Professor Neal Juster, Senior Vice Principal & Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Glasgow.



Building Peace through Sport at The Peace Link

PROJECT NEWS

The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, officially opened 'The Peace Link', an iconic €7.8 million EU PEACE III funded cross-community sports complex in Clones, County Monaghan recently.

The Peace Link facility incorporates a 1,285m² sports building with indoor basketball court; an eight lane, 400m long athletics track and field area; a multi-purpose full size playing pitch which can be used for Gaelic football, rugby, soccer, cricket, hurling and camogie; a fully-equipped indoor gym as well as extensive car and coach parking facilities.

The project has transformed a fourteen acre site at Liseggerton in Clones into a state-of-the-art multi-use sports and recreational facility that will be able to host major sporting competitions.

The core objective of the facility will be to encourage greater levels of positive cross-community engagement through a shared interest in sport. It will also provide much needed cross-border access to high quality sporting facilities for people living across County Fermanagh and County Monaghan.

In order to ensure that the sports complex is used and

enjoyed equally by all sections of the community, the project contains a 'Building Relations through Sport Programme', designed to tackle issues associated with sectarianism and racism.

A full-time integrated sports officer has been recruited to deliver upon the programme through the co-ordination of a series of events and initiatives that will ensure cross-community usage and participation.

Match funding for the project has been provided by the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in Ireland.

The project was devised and developed by the Clones Erne East Sports Partnership (CEESP), which represents a number of local community and sporting organisations.

For further information on The Peace Link, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/ThePeaceLink>

Pictured at the opening of The Peace Link are (left to right): Ava McNeilly from Newtownbutler; Sabina Higgins; President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins; Michael McGaughey from Clones and Kathleen Cassidy from the Clones Erne East Sports Partnership.



North West Regional Science Park Open for Business

The Northern Ireland Science Park has officially opened its Londonderry headquarters at the new purpose-built Innovation Centre at Fort George in the city.

The EU INTERREG IVA-funded North West Regional Science Park will anchor the work of the Science Park across the North and West of Ireland and will cement a cross-border partnership with Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) where work is already underway to extend its successful Co-Lab business incubator.

The North West Regional Science Park provides 50,000 square foot of flexible workspace on the banks of the Foyle, on the site of a former army barracks. It has its own Data Centre and with 70% of space already let to 23 tenants, it will house specialists in software, telecoms, digital media, health & bioscience, clean tech and television production, among many others.

The hi-tech, super-connected premises provides flexibility for start-ups and companies of any size, ranging from a single "hot desk" to large-scale workspace, as well as meeting spaces, a café, on-site parking and secure cloud data storage.



Pictured at the opening of the new North West Regional Science Park are (left to right): Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, MLA; Norman Apsley, CEO NI Science Park; Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, SEUPB; former Minister for Social Development Nelson McCausland, MLA and Dick Milligan, Chair NI Science Park.

The anchor tenant is Derry company 8over8, now a leader in contract risk management software for the global oil and gas industry. The company has taken the top floor of the building, which will be home to more than two thirds of its global team, after expanding beyond its original home in the University of Ulster Magee campus. The company also now has regional offices in North America, Australia and the Middle East.

Commenting on the successful launch of the first phase of this cross-border project, Pat Colgan Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body said, *"This project represents a significant investment*

from the European Union within the North West of the region. It has been funded in recognition of the enormous entrepreneurial potential that exists on both sides of the border, which just needs some additional support in order to fully prosper and develop. This is one of the core objectives of the INTERREG IVA Programme as it aims to help create a more diverse, sustainable and dynamic economy."

For further information please visit www.nisp.co.uk/north-west

PROJECT NEWS...

Glen Community Complex Opens

Social Development Minister Mervyn Storey has welcomed the completion of a purpose built community resource centre at the Glen Community Complex in the Lenadoon and Suffolk area of West Belfast. The £4.5m new facility, owned by Apex Housing Association, was funded by the EU's PEACE III Programme and Atlantic Philanthropies.

The new Complex will house much-needed community support services which include crèche facilities, an after-school club, healthy living programmes, education and training, family support, counselling and youth services. These will be provided by Glen Community Parent Youth Group, Lenadoon Community Forum, Lenadoon Women's Group and the Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group.

The building includes a large multi-functional hall which can be used for sports, drama and concerts, and a number of well equipped meeting rooms. Emerald Boxing Club has also taken space in a unit adjacent to the Complex.

Speaking at the official opening Minister Storey congratulated Apex and all



Pictured at the launch of Glen Community Complex are (left to right): Mervyn Storey, MLA, Minister for Social Development, local boxer Christina O'Hara who trains at the facilities and Lorraine McCourt, Director, Special EU Programmes Body.

involved with the project, saying, *"This development is a major boost for local community groups and for local residents. This magnificent facility will allow essential child care, youth and educational services to be safeguarded and to grow"*. He added, *"The Executive's agenda for addressing disadvantage recognises the need to build connected, cohesive and engaged communities. This investment will go a long way to achieve that aim here in west Belfast and is a vote of confidence in this community"*.

At the opening Martin Doherty, Chairman of Apex said, *"We are delighted to have played our part in the delivery of this impressive building. This hugely important project*

will serve the Lenadoon and Suffolk communities well for many years to come providing shared space to support the delivery of community priorities".

Welcoming the new complex, Lorraine McCourt, Director with the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) said: *"This new EU funded facility will create a truly shared space for local people, on a cross-community basis. It will also create a long-term and sustainable platform for the many different peace and reconciliation activities taking place in the local area."*

"I look forward to hearing more about how it will enhance community service provision within the Lenadoon and Suffolk estates in the future," she continued.

Helping small business sell into the construction sector

The North West Region Cross Border Group – incorporating the councils of Donegal, Derry/ Londonderry, Strabane, Limavady and Magherafelt – has secured additional INTERREG IVA funding to deliver the North West Construction Network Programme in 2014/15.

The Programme provides practical support to construction-focused businesses in the five council areas of the North West region. The specific focus of this next phase of the Programme is to support businesses to identify and exploit new opportunities in non-local markets.

Announcing the next phase of the programme, Councillor Paul Canning, Chairperson of the NW Region Cross Border Group said: *“We are delighted that the North West Construction Programme has moved into its next phase, which focuses on exporting opportunities and helping business to really gear up to grow. The impact of the economic recession has been hard on small businesses, not least for those whose fortunes rely on the construction sector. We are therefore very excited to see this project move*



Pictured at the recent 'Meet the Buyer' event held at Toomebridge are (left to right): Linda White, Project Officer NWRCBG; Cllr Kathleen McElDowney, Chairperson Magherafelt District Council; Cllr Gus Hastings, Vice-Chair NW Region Cross Border Group and Davina McCartney, Project Officer NW Construction Network.

forward and believe that it will make a real difference to businesses in our region”.

This phase of the Programme is being delivered by Belfast based Full Circle Management Solutions Ltd. Simon Devlin of Full Circle said: *“We intend to recruit up to 50 small to medium-sized businesses in the construction supply chain across the five council areas. The programme will involve a series of very practical skills development workshops, one-to-one business mentoring, bespoke sales prospecting support and two ‘Meet the Buyer’ events (ROI & GB), where participants will have*

the opportunity to meet with some of the leading buyers of construction-related products and services in the industry.”

For further information on the North West Construction Network Programme or to obtain an application form, please contact Nicola on tel: +00 44 (0) 28 90691027, or email: nicola@fullcircle.eu.com

PROJECT NEWS...

Real Life Interview: HELP – Halting Environmental Loss Project

County Antrim farmer Sam Bonnar says “seeing and hearing the lapwings circle around my fields in Glenwherry in the evenings always brings a smile to my face.”

This once familiar farmland bird has suffered significant decline in recent decades and is now on the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List. However, through the work of the RSPB and local farmers like Sam, the INTERREG-funded Halting Environmental Loss Project (HELP) has seen the number of lapwings in Glenwherry increase from 28 breeding pairs in 2011 to 35 pairs

and hatching rates increase from 39% to 56%.

HELP was created due to a serious decline in the numbers of breeding waders such as curlew, lapwing, redshank and snipe in Northern Ireland – an 80% reduction from 1987-2013 according to an RSPB survey) – and similar declines in curlew numbers in Donegal and corncrake and chough numbers in western Scotland.

The situation was viewed to be so dire that urgent action needed to be taken or a number of species would be at risk of being lost forever. The HELP team selected a number of important areas for

breeding waders in Northern Ireland, Donegal and western Scotland and RSPB project officers provided training and advice for farmers on how to manage their land for waders.

This habitat management work has also been of benefit to other wildlife including the great yellow bumblebee, the Irish Lady’s Tresses orchid, the marsh fritillary butterfly and the Irish damselfly.

Reflecting on the project, Caroline Marshall, Project Manager of HELP at the RSPB said: “Part of the great success of HELP has been sitting down with farmers and tapping into their memories of these species which they knew and experienced in their youth, but which they have seen much less of since, due to the decline in numbers.

“By bringing the farmer centre stage and pointing field management in the right direction, farmers now have the confidence to manage their land to the benefit of these at-risk species.”

HELP Facts

67% increase in breeding waders pairs on HELP sites in NI.

HELP Facts

Advising over 220 farmers on habitat management in NI, Rol and Scotland.

The main issues that needed to be addressed by HELP in Northern Ireland were the spread of rushes, the spread of scrub and the



HELP Facts
More than 1,100ha
of rushes cut as a
result of HELP.

'Seeing and hearing the lapwings circle around my fields in Glenwherry in the evenings always brings a smile to my face'.

numbers of vantage points for predators, under-grazing and the lack of muddy pools where chicks could feed.

HELP project officers made contact with almost 300 farmers, provided detailed field by field advice to over 150 farmers and ran over 20 training events. As a direct result of the one-to-one advice, the farmers have been cutting rushes, targeting grazing, clearing scrub and creating shallow pools for chicks to feed in.

As well as restoring habitat for birds and other ancillary plant and animal species, there have been some tangible economic benefits from the project. Visitors, attracted to the natural landscapes of the remote islands off the west coast of Scotland, have been able to learn more about the landscape, have been encouraged to make repeat visits and have contributed more to the remote rural economy.

In the isles of Islay, Colonsay and Mull off western Scotland, the increase or stabilisation

in corncrake and cough numbers has proven to be a big attraction to tourists. Over 800 guided walks were delivered by HELP staff and over 80,000 people have visited the RSPB's reserves on Islay, Colonsay, Mull and Oronsay. A series of open days, school liaison and family fun day events took place and the Mull Eagle Watch also received a 5-star Wildlife Experience award from Visit Scotland and gained a Gold Star from the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

As the project comes to a close, Caroline Marshall is optimistic about its future potential. She said: "Our partners Birdwatch Ireland have been able to highlight the situation for curlew Europe-wide through a number

of conference presentations and have also successfully influenced the policy of the Irish government by introducing a curlew option to the new Agri-Environment Scheme."

"In terms of RSPB, we will continue offering advice to farmers, as well as undertaking species surveys and habitat management for waders. We will also be working to influence future government policy and will explore different ways to continue to deliver all the really positive benefits of HELP for nature and people beyond 2014", she continued.

For further information about HELP, please contact Caroline Marshall - Caroline.Marshall@rspb.org.uk

HELP Facts
1,250 guided walks
and talks held in
Scotland.

HELP Facts
Green tourism and
wildlife friendly
farmer awards for
HELP farmers.



REAL LIFE INTERVIEWS...

PEACE III and INTERREG IVA 2014 Conferences

The SEUPB hosted two conferences recently to celebrate the work of the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes and to look forward to the new programmes 2014-2020.

The events, which took place in Belfast and Dundalk respectively, were attended by a total of over 300 delegates.

Themed around 'Sharing and Understanding Experiences of the Conflict', the PEACE III conference took place at The MAC and showcased some of the work of projects funded under the €333m programme.

Hosted by journalist and actor Ivan Little, the conference featured PEACE III funded projects which utilise theatre, film, visual art and storytelling techniques to encourage greater levels of peace and reconciliation across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

As part of the event delegates were also given the opportunity to learn more about the proposed spending priorities of the new PEACE Programme for 2014-2020. These include support for shared education initiatives; a renewed focus on support for young people; continued assistance for



(Left to right): MC Éanna Ni Lamhna, keynote speaker Monty Halls and Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body, get hands-on with some marine life at the 2014 INTERREG IVA Environment Conference.

'shared space' projects; and support towards the creation of a more inclusive 'civil society'. The content of the new PEACE Programme is still subject to negotiation with the European Commission, but is anticipated to launch in late Spring 2015.

Entitled 'Sharing Borders, Growing Closer', the INTERREG IVA Environment Conference took place at the Crowne Plaza in Dundalk and was hosted by biologist and RTE television and radio presenter Éanna Ni Lamhna (RTE).

The event took a closer look at some of the most significant environment focused projects funded by the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, including presentations on

the conservation of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, research and development for renewable energy products, improving habitats for at-risk bird species and protecting aquatic resources; all on a cross-border basis.

With a total value of €282 million it is proposed that the new INTERREG Programme will support a wide range of different cross-border projects and initiatives under four key areas, including research & innovation, the environment, health and sustainable transport.

For further information on the new Programmes, please visit www.seupb.eu

Connecting people and improving lives through social farming

The work of Social Farming Across Borders (SoFAB), an innovative three year social farming initiative supported by INTERREG IVA, was celebrated with a conference at Belfast Castle recently.

Almost 200 people who attended the conference heard about the pilot project which involved 20 farm families in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. The farms involved in SoFAB continued as fully working farms, but for one or two days a week, in conjunction with social and health care providers, they welcomed groups of people with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues to engage in day-to-day farming tasks.

The project delivered almost 1,600 person days of social farming experience to the 66 people who used the service between April 2013 and June 2014. Taking part in these experiences offered the individuals involved the chance to improve their health and well-being, to promote a feeling of inclusion and increase self-esteem. It also helped to enhance the social inclusion of the farmers through increased connection

and communication with their local communities.

Speaking at the SoFAB conference, Project Manager, Dr Jim Kinsella of the School of Agriculture, University College Dublin, revealed that *"Farm households provided this pilot service free of charge, displaying huge personal commitment to the project."* He continued, *"The future of social farming lies in converting the interest of the Health Trusts and the Health Services Executive into contracted services with farmers that have the potential to offer thousands of people the opportunity to avail*

of social farming in years to come."

David Small, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development stated in his opening conference address that he hoped that the conference represented another key milestone in the evolution of social farming from a concept to a working model on the island of Ireland.

For further information related to SoFAB along with research findings and videos please contact Dr Jim Kinsella, School of Agriculture & Food Science, UCD (jim.kinsella@ucd.ie).

PROJECT NEWS...

Pictured at the SoFAB Conference are (left to right): Jim Kinsella, UCD; Ann Derwin, DAFM; David Small, DARD; Anne Marie Ward, HSE; Iolo Eilian, Health Trust NI; Lorraine McCourt, SEUPB; Francesco di Iacovo, University of Pisa; Shane Loughlin, SoFAB.



Siege Museum in Derry~Londonderry a step closer as construction work begins

PROJECT NEWS

The construction phase of the EU PEACE III funded Siege Museum and Shared Space Visitors Centre in Derry~Londonderry has been launched.

The Centre is part of a £3.7 million project that includes the renovation of the Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall. It is designed to educate people about the Great Siege of 1689, building upon the cross-community outreach work already undertaken by the Apprentice Boys of Derry.

William Moore, General Secretary of the Apprentice Boys Association, said:

"This is an exciting time both for us and the city as we start the construction phase of this development. Our educational outreach work is well underway and a special mention must go to the winning pupils from local schools who have participated in designing a hoarding for the site based on images of the Siege of Derry."

Located in Society Street, the initiative will provide a 5,000 square foot purpose built visitor centre detailing how the events of the Siege of Londonderry 1688-89 shaped the political landscape in Ireland and Europe. The project includes works to the listed



Pictured at the launch of the construction phase of the Siege Museum are (left to right): Lorraine McCourt, Director, SEUPB; Mark H Durkan, MLA, Minister of the Environment; Mayor Cllr Brenda Stevenson; William Moore, General Secretary of the Apprentice Boys' Association; Arlene Foster, MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment; and Mervyn Storey, MLA, Minister for Social Development.

Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall, incorporating disability access, mechanical and electrical upgrade and building fabric works. The Siege Museum and Memorial Hall will be interconnected, yet retain their own self-enclosed space.

Interpretation at the Visitor Centre will explain and contextualise the Siege and its commemoration and will be delivered by internationally acclaimed interpretive designers Martello Media, whose previous projects include the award winning Guinness Store House in Dublin.

Commenting on the project,

Lorraine McCourt Director from the Special EU Programmes Body, which manages the EU's PEACE III Programme, said: *"This project is an integral part of the 'shared spaces' theme of the PEACE III Programme, which provides assistance to a number of different capital build and physical regeneration projects designed to create new public spaces in which all communities can come together and learn from each other."*

For further information, please visit www.thesiegemuseum.org

WOMAD Belfast Outreach Programme

Established in 2004, Beyond Skin is a charity based in Northern Ireland which uses music, art, multimedia and radio as tools for cultural education and exchange to address issues around racism and sectarianism.

In 2013 the organisation, which has a professional team from over 40 nationalities, benefited from a £16,000 funding award from Belfast City Council Creative Legacies II PEACE III Programme.

The award enabled the organisation to launch the 'WOMAD Belfast Outreach Programme', the first phase of a four year WOMAD Belfast Strategy.

As part of the programme, multicultural workshops in dance, music and art took place in locations including North Down, Banbridge, Newtownabbey, Ballymena, Lisburn, Omagh and Dungannon, developing skills and building local ownership and participation in events across Northern Ireland.

In total, over 300 workshops in schools and communities spreading across 14 council districts have taken place with five large showcase events giving short-term employment to over 50 professional artists.

Darren Ferguson, Manager of Beyond Skin said:

"The WOMAD outreach programme gave participants the opportunity to learn a creative skill in world culture. The creative learning process is not only great fun but helps to build confidence and a respect for different cultural traditions and beliefs. It has been a very rewarding journey for the Beyond Skin team under the mentoring and guidance of WOMAD."

For further information on Beyond Skin and WOMAD in Northern Ireland, please visit www.womadbelfast.org

Artists from Uganda, South Africa and Brazil perform at the WOMAD Showcase event at the Skainos Centre, East Belfast.



Sustainable Award Success for STEM Project

PROJECT NEWS

A local project aimed at helping businesses to save money has won the top prize at the prestigious Sustainable Ireland 2014 awards ceremony.

The STEM (Sustainable Together through Environmental Management) Project, which is supported by INTERREG IVA, won the 'Leadership in Sustainable Development' category at the ceremony in recognition of its work with over 150 businesses to help them cut their energy, waste and water bills, in order to make

them more more competitive and reduce their environmental impact.

The STEM Project has been working closely with Craigavon Borough Council over the last two years to support local businesses to make real savings and implement an environmental management system, where required.

Commenting on STEM's success, Project Manager Anne Mason said: *"We are delighted to have gained this recognition especially in such a tough*

category. The STEM Project is an excellent demonstration of how European money can make a real difference not only directly to the businesses we have been helping but also to the wider community and environment, by encouraging these businesses to operate in a more sustainable way long term."

To find out more about the STEM Project and how your business may benefit from its services, please contact 028 37515810 or visit www.stemproject.com



Pictured receiving the award are: (from left to right) Adrian Logan, MC; Dette Hughes, EBR Programme Manager; Martina McNulty, Chief Executive Southern Group Environmental Health Committee; Anne Mason, STEM Project Manager and Mr Darren Cullen, Edge Innovation (Award Sponsor).

'Border Lives' films screened at Stormont

PROJECT NEWS...

The EU PEACE III funded storytelling project 'Border Lives', which produced six short films capturing people's lives and experiences along the border region, both during the conflict and up to the present day, has been featured in a special screening for MLAs at Stormont.

The project tells the 'everyday' stories of how people adapted their daily lives and routine amidst the violence, fear, isolation and uncertainty of the conflict but also shows the humour, friendships, and community spirit that existed.

Each of the six films focuses on a different location along the border and gathers a breadth of perspectives and stories from almost 100 local people. Stories include a woman who talks poignantly of watching a soldier dying outside her home, a retired RUC officer who speaks of never wanting to have to use his gun and an IRA member's memories of growing up in and around Bessbrook.

Conor McGale, Project Manager of Border Lives said:

"The more we delved into this project, the more fascinating it became. We have been really encouraged by the numbers of politicians who made the effort

to come to local screenings over the last few months and are delighted to have taken the Border Lives road show to Stormont."

The Stormont event also saw the official launch of the new 'Border Lives' website that will host all six films along with additional footage, a new 'Border Lives' app and an online learning course on reconciliation based on the footage captured by the project.

'Border Lives' is run by Tyrone Donegal Partnership and funded by the European Union's PEACE III Programme, managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by Pobal.



For further information on the 'Border Lives' initiative visit www.borderlives.eu

Pictured at the launch of the 'Border Lives' app at Stormont are (left to right): Conor McGale, Project Manager - 'Border Lives'; Junior Minister Jennifer McCann, MLA; Danny Kennedy, MLA, Minister for Regional Development and Lorraine McCourt, Director, SEUPB.

REPUTE Workshop in Northern Ireland a Success

REPUTE – Renewable Energy in Public Transport Enterprise – is an 18 month project funded through the Atlantic Area Transitional Programme. With seven partners across the eligible Atlantic Region (which includes the whole of the UK and Ireland and the Atlantic areas of Spain, France and Portugal), REPUTE will act as a catalyst for the application of renewable energy in public transport.

The first of six REPUTE Workshops was held recently in Dungannon, hosted by the two Northern Ireland project partners, Action Renewables and South West College. The

focus of this workshop was to provide practical information and stimulate meaningful discussion on the continued integration of renewable energy in public transport.

The event presented the current situation in Northern Ireland and examined how its public transport sector could learn from best practice examples elsewhere. Amongst the speakers at the workshop were representatives from Translink, Queen's University Belfast and Oxfordshire County Council.

Mark Mitchell, Product Director at Wrightbus demonstrated the environmental and economic benefits of investing in renewables for public transport, stating: "REPUTE is a great example of how

central European government, local government, academia and local business can come together to create, coordinate and implement a more sustainable Northern Ireland transport network."

Ciarán de Búrca, Director of Transport Projects at the Department of Regional Development gave an overview of the progress and outcomes of the Belfast on the Move and Belfast Rapid Transit projects. He also previewed the REPUTE Guide, which will be published in June 2015: "I look forward to viewing the REPUTE guide and anticipate it will be a useful tool for transport operators, local authorities and policy makers."

Other project outputs will include pilot projects in Scotland and Portugal, which will see the installation of renewables for public transport and rollout of a Personal Travel Planning campaign. In June 2015 the REPUTE Conference Tour will take place to present the project outcomes. As the first of its kind, the tour will be a two week long journey around the Atlantic Area encompassing five conferences.

For more information on the project please visit www.reputeproject.eu



Interregional and Transnational Programmes

Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme

2014-2020

The first call for applications under the Programme (valued at €56m ERDF) was launched in September 2014 and will close on 24 November 2014.

Each project must select one of the following four Priority Areas to focus on:

1. Using Innovation to Maintain & Develop Robust & Competitive Communities
2. Promoting Entrepreneurship to Realise the Potential of the Programme Area's Competitive Advantage
3. Fostering Energy-Secure Communities through Promotion of Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency
4. Protecting, Promoting and Developing Cultural & Natural Heritage

For further information on the Programme, please visit: www.northernperiphery.eu or contact the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland, Declan McGarrigle, on 028 9026 6678 or by email: declan.mcgarrigle@seupb.eu

North West Europe Programme 2014-2020

Calls for Applications under the Programme (valued at €396m

ERDF) are likely to launch in 2015 and will be based on the following Priorities:

- Strengthening research, technological development & innovation
- Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
- Protecting the environment & promoting energy efficiency

For further information on the programme, please visit <http://www.nweurope.eu/>

Atlantic Area Programme 2014-2020

Calls for Applications under the Programme are likely to launch in 2015 and will likely be based on the following Priorities:

- Stimulating Innovation & competitiveness
- Fostering resource efficiency
- Strengthening risk management systems
- Enhancing biodiversity and the natural and cultural assets

For further information, please visit <http://atlanticarea.ccdr-n.pt/presentation/2014-2020>

INTERREG EUROPE Programme 2014-2020

The programme will be launched in December 2014 with Calls for Applications to follow in 2015. The Programme (valued at €359m ERDF) aims to improve the implementation of regional development policies and programmes.

Four themes have been selected in order to make the best use of limited funds, these are:

- Research & Innovation
- SME Competitiveness
- Low Carbon Economy
- Environment & Resource Efficiency

For further information, please visit: www.interreg4c.eu/interreg-europe/public-consultation

Please note that all of the information provided above is subject to final approval by member states and the European Commission and is therefore subject to change. For the latest updates please continue to check the programme websites or contact Declan directly using the details provided above.

Programme Summaries and SEUPB Contacts

PEACE III

The €333 million PEACE III Programme 2007-2013 is a distinctive European Union Structural Funds Programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation. Building upon lessons and good practice gained from previous PEACE Programmes, it specifically focuses on two Priorities:

- Reconciling Communities and
- Contributing to a Shared Society.

The eligible area is Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo).

For further information on the PEACE III Programme contact:

Joint Technical Secretariat
Omagh,
Tel: +44 (0) 28 8225 5750
E: omagh@seupb.eu or Belfast,
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660
E: info@seupb.eu or

The Consortium
Pobal

Tel: +353 (0)1 5117500
E: enquiries@pobal.ie

INTERREG IVA

The €256 million INTERREG IVA Programme 2007-2013 aims to support strategic cross-border territorial co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region.

The targeted eligible area is Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo) and western Scotland (Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland, and South Ayrshire).

The Programme's two key priorities are:

- Co-operation for a more prosperous cross-border region, and
- Co-operation for a sustainable cross-border region.

For further information on the INTERREG IVA Programme contact:

Joint Technical Secretariat,
Monaghan.
Tel: + 353 (0)47 77003
E: monaghan@seupb.eu or

Caroline Coleman, National Contact Point for Scotland, Scotland
Europa, 150 Broomielaw, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow G2 8LU.
Tel: +44 (0) 141 228 2202
E: Caroline.Coleman@scotent.co.uk

INTERREG IVB Transnational Programmes

The SEUPB has a role in promoting North/South participation in the relevant INTERREG IVB Transnational Programmes.

These programmes are:

- **The Northern Periphery Programme.**
This €45.2 million programme aims to help peripheral and remote communities in the northern regions of Europe to develop their economic, social and environmental potential. The programme area involves parts of Finland, Ireland, Sweden, Scotland, Northern Ireland – in co-operation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. SEUPB is the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland.
- **The North West Europe Programme.**
This €355 million programme aims to help make this new region more competitive, environmentally friendly and cohesive by improving access to more and better jobs, enhancing the environmental qualities of the region, improving accessibility and ensuring that cities and rural areas are attractive and sustainable. The programme area is France, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland Luxembourg, Belgium, and Switzerland. The SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role.

– The Atlantic Area Programme

This €104 million programme aims to achieve progress on transnational co-operation that is geared towards cohesive, sustainable and balanced territorial development of the Atlantic Area and its maritime heritage. The programme region covers all of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and those regions within Portugal, Spain, France and the UK that border the Atlantic Ocean. The SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role.

INTERREG IVC Inter-regional Programme

The €302 million INTERREG IVC Inter-regional Programme is aimed at local and regional authorities. It focuses on the identification, analysis and dissemination of good practices by public authorities in order to improve the effectiveness of regional and local policies. Co-operation projects are eligible across all 27 EU states, plus Norway and Switzerland.

SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role for North/South participation in this programme.

For further information on IVB and IVC Programmes, contact:

Declan McGarrigle at the SEUPB Belfast office:
Tel: + 44 (0) 28 9026 6678
E: declan.mcgarrrigle@seupb.eu

Special EU Programmes body
info@seupb.eu
www.seupb.eu

Belfast
7th Floor,
The Clarence West Building
2 Clarence Street West
Belfast BT2 7GP
Northern Ireland
T: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660

Monaghan
M:Tek II Building
Armagh Road
Monaghan
Ireland
T: +353 (0) 477 7003

Omagh
EU House
11 Kevlin Road
Omagh BT78 1LB
Northern Ireland
+44 (0) 28 8225 5750