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

Spring 2014

YOUR EU!

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

INTERREG IVA Programme
iFactory Awards

PEACE III Programme
Public Art Helps Build Peace

Real Life Interview
Border Lives

News & Info
Sporting 4 Peace



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 – 2013

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WELCOME...

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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Foreword

Welcome to the spring edition of Your EU.

This edition will help usher in the New Year with a quick look back at some of the projects funded under PEACE III and INTERREG IVA which are making a significant impact upon people's lives across the region.

Under INTERREG IVA this includes enhanced healthcare provision by the Cooperation and Working Together (CAWT) programme which has received approximately €28m of support. A number of different healthcare initiatives are being funded under CAWT, which represents a partnership between the Health and Social Care Services in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

In this issue we recognise the closure of the iFactory project, which was celebrated at a major event held in Derry-Londonderry. Now successfully completed the project has helped over 150 local companies to improve their innovation capabilities.

We also learn more about the food and drink sector development project called 'Access 6' which is helping

local firms tap into new and profitable export markets across Europe.

Under the PEACE III Programme we hear about the 'Building Peace through the Arts – Re-imaging Communities' programme which is using public art as a vehicle to promote greater levels of cross-community engagement.

We learn about the progress that is being made on the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland's REACH project which recently celebrated a sod-turning event in the construction of a new interpretative centre, based in Schomberg House, Belfast.

The plans for the construction of a new PEACE III funded Garden of Reflection are also covered in this edition of Your EU. To be located in the Pump Street Courtyard in Derry-Londonderry, the plans were unveiled as part of a visit to the site by Northern Ireland's Social Development Minister, Nelson McCausland.

For our in-depth feature we have a great article on the Border Lives project. An innovative story-telling initiative, the project focuses



on the experiences of people living within or close to the Border during the conflict.

Work on the development of the new programmes for 2014-2020 is continuing and we are currently engaged in detailed discussions with the Member States (UK and Ireland) as to their content. A further public consultation is planned over the summer months to ensure that the programmes are ready for approval by the European Commission, ahead of the September 2014 submission deadline.

If you have any comments, feedback or thoughts on this edition please do not hesitate to contact the SEUPB's Communications Team.

Pat Colgan
Special EU Programmes Body

FOREWORD...

New Programmes 2014-2020 Development Update

On 17 December 2013, the European Parliament and the Council approved the new EU Regulations for the 2014–2020 programming period. They were published on the Official Journal of the European Union on 20 December 2013 and entered into force on 21 December 2013.

These regulations confirm that both the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes will be supported under the new programming period. The European Regional Development Fund (or ERDF) contribution for the PEACE IV Programme is set at €29m and €40m for the INTERREG V Programme.

In order to maximise the investment impact within the eligible area, the European Commission (EC) requires that projects funded under 2014-2020 have a tighter concentration of focus. All projects seeking financial assistance must therefore be able to demonstrate that they can produce tangible results and outputs.

There will be a slight change for the eligible area for the new INTERREG Programme in that it will now include Greater Belfast and the Western Isles,

alongside the rest of Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and western Scotland. The PEACE Programme's eligible area however will remain the same and will include Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland, as in previous Programmes. A number of themes have emerged in terms of the investment priorities for both programmes. Under PEACE IV it is currently proposed that support will be allocated to shared education initiatives; children and young people; shared spaces and services and projects which can demonstrate an ability to create a more inclusive and tolerant civil society.

Under INTERREG V it is currently proposed that support be allocated to four distinct areas of investment including Research & Innovation; the environment; health; and local regeneration initiatives.

However all of these themes are not fixed and will be subject to a further public consultation to be held over the summer months (May-July). The EC has also set a 22 September deadline to receive the content of both programmes, which will

then be subject to further negotiation before receiving final approval. The SEUPB is hopeful that once this process is complete it will be able to open the first funding calls in the spring of 2015.

In response to the issues raised about the administrative burden to projects, in the initial public consultation, the SEUPB is currently in discussions with the Department of Finance and Personnel (in Northern Ireland) and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (in Ireland) to see what simplifications can be made to help project's deliver upon their objectives more easily. These simplifications will look at all aspects of project management, from the initial approval process to implementation and delivery.

For further updates on the new programmes and the consultation go to <http://www.seupb.eu/2014-2020Consultations/2014-2020ConsultationOverview.aspx>

Bringing Science to Life

National Science and Engineering Week gave budding young scientists from Fermanagh, Cavan and Leitrim the opportunity to take part in an exciting series of 'Earth Science' Lab workshops organised by the Geopark, in association with the Border Uplands Project.

As part of the workshops, students learned about the science of the earth by taking part in a number of hands on experiments, facilitated by experts from the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, to help them discover what causes an earthquake and what happens when a meteorite hits the earth.

Pupils also had the opportunity to create their own caves, volcanoes and fossils, helping them to understand how each are formed over millions of years.

Commenting on the workshops, Richard Watson, Manager of Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, said: "We are delighted to deliver this outreach programme to students in Fermanagh and beyond, helping young people to discover the wonder of the world around them in a fun and enjoyable way."



Students from St. Martin's Primary School, with staff from the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, Co Fermanagh during the recent Science Week workshops.

The Border Uplands Project is a cross-border tourism development initiative, funded under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, which aims to develop the tourism potential of the scenic uplands of Cavan, Fermanagh, Leitrim and Sligo.

It also aims to increase the geo-tourism and recreational potential of the region by encouraging increased and sustainable use of the countryside.

In receipt of approximately €3.2million worth of EU assistance the project is providing much needed recreational infrastructure to the local area and has put in place a comprehensive marketing strategy to help

increase visitor numbers by at least 15%, within three years of its completion.

The project is also currently coordinating the development and refurbishment of strategic walking routes, trails and other countryside recreational facilities such as the '25 walks' in Fermanagh, the 'Ulster Way' and the 'Cavan Way'.

For further information on the Border Uplands Project please visit www.borderuplands.com.

For further information on education programmes and guided tours of the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark, including the Marble Arch Caves, please visit www.marblearchcavesgeopark.com

Public Art Helps Build Peace

PROJECT NEWS

Secondary school pupils, members of the traveller community and representatives from a number of ethnic communities are amongst those who have pooled their collective expertise to create a new piece of art that will help unify the community in Dunclug, Ballymena.

The Dunclug Partnership is one of nine groups across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland to be awarded funding from the EU PEACE III supported 'Building Peace through the Arts – Re-imaging Communities' programme.

Other funding partners for the project include the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the International Fund for Ireland.

Up to £5,000 is available through the Programme to support peace building through localised consultation and creative engagement for each project site. Upon completion of this activity, a second application of up to £50,000 can be made to produce and install the artwork that is proposed.

The Dunclug Partnership has been awarded £4,490 to facilitate a bespoke art project.

Welcoming the funding support PJ McAvoy, Chair of the Dunclug Partnership, said: "We are delighted to have received this funding and plan to use it to help foster relationships within our local community, culminating in the creation of a piece of public artwork in Dunclug. It is an exciting time for us and we look forward to working together to promote a shared society and a lasting legacy for our community."

Derriagh Village Community Association in Lisburn has been awarded £2,500 to commission a new piece of public art that will reflect the shared history and heritage of the area, to be located at the entrance to the estate. The process will also see the removal of a number of paramilitary murals.

The Servite Trust in Dungannon, more commonly known as Benburn Priory, has also received £4,700 towards the development of a piece of public art which they hope will be a symbol of shared space and help integrate new residents from an ethnic minority background into village life.



Pictured are pupils Amy Chan from Dunclug College and Kayleigh McWhirter from St Patrick's College, Ballymena.

Access 6 moves to France

EU funded export development project, Access 6, recently launched a drive to boost Irish food and drink exports into the lucrative €225 billion French retail grocery market at a networking event held in Paris.

Funded with €2.2m from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, Access 6 is delivered by the Irish Exporters Association (IEA), Northern Ireland Food & Drink (NIFDA) and Scotland Food & Drink (SFD).

The project aims to provide 90 SMEs in the food and drink sector, across the three jurisdictions, with the training and mentorship needed to successfully trade in a wide-range of foreign markets including the UK, France, Germany, Scandinavia, Benelux and North America.

The project creates 'clusters' of food and drink firms and provides them with the marketing skills and logistical support needed to successfully supply and trade in profitable international markets.

France remains the leading European market for Irish food and drink exports, growing by 14% in 2013 to reach €673

million. It also remains Ireland's largest customer for lamb and seafood and the second largest for beef and whiskey.

To mark the launch of the French cluster, an evening reception was held at the Irish Embassy in Paris hosted by Ambassador of Ireland to France H.E. Mr Rory Montgomery. Other attendees included potential buyers in the French food and drink sector; senior trade advisors from the British Embassy in Paris; and Irish-French business networks including Network Irelande and the Irish French Chamber of Commerce.

Also attending the event on behalf of Scotland Food & Drink, Amanda Brown, Industry Development Director commented: "Exports are key to the growth of Scottish companies and vital to the success of Scotland's economy. The Access 6 programme is dedicated to providing SMEs in the food and drink industry with knowledge and expertise to help them access and trade



Pictured (l-r) are Michael Bell, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Food & Drink Association; Lorna Duffy, Project Manager, Access 6, IEA; Will Shaw, Project Manager, Access 6, Scotland Food & Drink; Amanda Brown, Industry Development Manager, Scotland Food & Drink; Harry Hamilton, Project Manager, Access 6, Northern Ireland Food & Drink Association; Ailish Lally, Project Assistant, Access 6, IEA and John Whelan, Project Director, Access 6, IEA.

in profitable new markets. This launch event in France is about providing a platform to showcase all that the participating companies have to offer and to encourage potential buyers in the French market to invest.

For more information on the Access 6 project go to www.access6.eu

Real Life Interview – Sharing Stories of Life on the Border

REAL LIFE INTERVIEWS...

The Border Lives project is a truly innovative story-telling initiative funded under the EU's PEACE III Programme. Differing from similar projects, Border Lives specifically focuses on the experiences of people living within or close to the Border Region during the conflict. Delivered by the Tyrone Donegal Partnership the project is in receipt of approximately €0.5 million worth of funding. It traces, through a series of filmed personal testimonies, how the perceptions and actual physical experience of the Border changed over time.

These stories recount the everyday experience of

living in the Border region as well as the mentality of being from the Border area. Participants talked about their experiences during the 1940's and 50's right up to the 1990's. The interviews recall people's social life in the region; how the community reacted to particular events during the conflict; the importance of people's faith and the introduction of army checkpoints and road closures. All of which had a profound and sometimes life-changing effect on the lives of local people.

Around 90 interviews have been collated as part of the project. These represent the untold stories of ordinary

business owners, factory workers, health practitioners, members of the clergy and security forces who were all caught up in the conflict. One of the key features of the project has been the high level of Protestant engagement from the region and one of the films will deal specifically with the Protestant experience of living near the Border during the Troubles.

Talking about the unique approach taken by Border Lives, Project Manager Conor McGale said; "A lot of the work that has been undertaken in this area has focused on telling the stories of people based within larger urban centres. We wanted to focus on the

Border Lives, Project Manager, Conor McGale.



"We wanted to focus on the experiences of people living in more rural areas, particularly on or close to the border, whose day-to-day lives were also radically transformed by the conflict".

experiences of people living in more rural areas, particularly on or close to the border, whose day-to-day lives were also radically transformed by the conflict".

To help attract potential participants and also help promote the project itself, Border Lives recently held a series of 12 public information events throughout the border region. In doing this and working in close partnership with local community groups, the project was able to recruit a large pool of willing volunteers to tell their story.

The interviews that have been collected are currently being edited down into six separate half-hour documentaries. These documentaries will be screened locally within the participating areas later in the year and will act as a community learning experience.

Isobel Cleary, a community development worker, based in Belleek, participated in one of the 90 interviews. Talking

about her experience of the project, she said: "During the conflict you lived a normal life but in abnormal times, as every now and again there would be a sharp reminder of what was happening which would filter down into your day-to-day existence. I feel it is important that projects like these do go ahead. Sometimes it is tempting to leave the past in the past, but in doing so future generations run the risk of repeating the same mistakes."

In order to engage with a younger audience the project has taken full advantage of social media channels in order to get its message across. Viral trailers of the final edited documentaries will also be released via You Tube to maximise awareness of the Border Lives project ahead of the planned screening events.

"We felt it important to capitalise on the social media aspect to help generate interest in the project, as well as showing people our approach. As a cost effective medium it has proven to be

BORDER Lives

very useful so far; particularly with a younger audience who we feel it is important to reach so they can learn more about the history of where they live," said Conor.

This use of new technology will also incorporate the creation of a bespoke Border Lives 'App' for use on smart-phones and tablets. Three 'e-learning' modules are also in an early development phase and will be based upon the inter-connected themes of 'remembering', 'reconciliation' and 'reconstruction', which have emerged from the projects interviews.

For more information on Border Lives go to @Border_Lives on Twitter; www.facebook.com/BorderLives on Facebook or visit the project website at <http://borderlives.eu>

Celebrating Chinese New Year

To help see in the 'Year of the Horse' the Wah Hep Chinese Community Association, in partnership with the PEACE III Southern Partnership, organised a special celebration event in the Craigavon Civic Centre.

Guests at the celebration enjoyed special performances from Chinese dancers and magicians, local Irish and highland dancers, traditional Chinese singers and of course the traditional 'Chinese Lion Dance' - a very important part of Chinese New Year culture.

With many representatives from the local community

as well as Deputy Mayor Cllr Colin McCusker and Joint Chair of the PEACE III Southern Partnership Dr James McCammick, the event was the perfect opportunity to embrace cultural diversity and build new relationships between different communities.

Landmark Sod Turning Event

The EU PEACE III funded Reaching Out through Education and Cultural Heritage or REACH project recently celebrated a significant landmark with the sod turning of its new interpretative centre at Schomberg House. Delivered

by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland the project will allow the organisation to fully articulate its history and traditions to all sections of the community.

As part of the project, two new interpretative centres will be created at Schomberg House, Belfast and Sloan's House in Armagh. Both sites will be fully operational by the spring of 2015. They will help tell the history of the Order for young people, academics, community groups and interested members of the general public, representing all sections of society.

The ceremonial sod cutting in east Belfast was attended by the Grand Master of the Order Edward Stevenson; Chief Executive of the SEUPB, Pat Colgan and Social Development Minister, Nelson McCausland. They were joined by a centenarian Orangeman Grand Chaplin Ernest Long, and junior Orange members Robert Neeson and Lyndsey Watson.

The PEACE III Southern Partnership helps to celebrate the 'Year of the Horse'.



Welcoming the initiative the Irish Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan T.D, said:

"This project is underpinned by the principles of meaningful cross-community dialogue and mutual respect, principles which we wholeheartedly endorse and support. We agree that this is a potentially transformational project and I am pleased that the Irish Government can support the



Pictured l-r at the sod turning event is Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB, Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Edward Stevenson and Social Development Minister, Neslon McCausland.

Orange Lodge of Ireland as it embarks on this journey.”

STEM Success

The EU INTERREG IVA funded STEM project is in its final year of funding and has already helped over 400 businesses to save in excess of £900,000 per annum on energy, waste and water bills. This achievement is a testament to the hard work of those delivering the project and the client companies realising the benefits of participation.

The regular networking events coordinated through STEM have also helped SME's across the region to generate new business leads and secure lucrative commercial contracts.

Participating companies benefiting from the advice and guidance they have received from the project include Furniture Link International, based in Dundalk. Involved in the first phase of the STEM project the company has fully embraced an environmental strategy across the organisation and is currently working towards

ISO 14001 environmental accreditation.

Monaghan Leisure Complex also used STEM's services to achieve BS8555 accreditation, thereby reducing its energy, water and waste management bills. Through participation in the project the Complex was able to make financial savings of over €20,000.

ICBAN RSF

Local authority-led cross border development group ICBAN recently launched a Regional Strategic Framework (RSF) for the central border area of Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. The framework represents a commitment by the ten local authorities which make up the area to affect positive policy change that will lead to enhanced regional development and regeneration. It also seeks to address the inequalities and social outcomes between the central border region and other regions within Northern Ireland and Ireland. For more information on the RSF go to www.icban.com/The-RSF

Sporting 4 Peace

The joint Lisburn/Castlereagh PEACE Partnership recently held a cross-community conference called Sport4Peace in the Lyric Theatre, Belfast.



Pictured swapping medals at the Sporting 4 Peace event are Michael McKillop, a Paralympic athlete, with Castlereaugh Borough Council's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Anne Marie Beattie.

Attended by over 120 sports students from different backgrounds across the local area the theme of the event was 'Promoting peace through the medium of Sport'.

The Sport4Peace project encourages young people from different religious and cultural backgrounds to come together and participate in sports and good relations programmes, designed to build positive and long-term relationships.

In operation for almost two years, the project has delivered a range of events exploring issues such as racial and sectarian prejudice and how these can be overcome using sport as a vehicle of integration.

BBC Sports commentator Joel Taggart acted as MC for the event, with Paralympic gold medallist Michael McKillop and successful GAA player Aidan O'Rourke delivering keynote speeches on how sport can be used to bring communities together.

Engaging Youth

Inishowen Development Partnership and the Farset Youth and Community group are working together to deliver a new cross-border and cross-community youth project.

Called 'Engage Youth', the project has been designed to challenge young peoples' attitudes towards cultural

identity and equality. It brings together young people from Donegal, Derry-Londonderry and Belfast incorporating single identity, cross-community and cross-border work.

Through accredited media programmes the young people involved in the project are supported to produce stories, films and audio packages as well as photography for publication, broadcast and exhibitions to influence their communities, challenge perceptions and promote diversity.

The project delivers accredited training in journalism, photography, podcasting and radio programme production. Participants also have an international residential in

Belgium where they learn about World War One and the impact that the conflict had across Ireland.

After completing this part of the project the young people gain a better understanding of their shared past and obtain an OCN Qualification in skills and peace building.

Selling Our Story

Cultural tourism providers from across Scotland, the Border Region of Ireland and Northern Ireland recently descended upon Donegal to attend the first major conference of the INTERREG IVA funded CeangalG project. The conference was specifically created to demonstrate the socio-economic benefits of cultural tourism for all three regions.

Called 'Selling our Story' the centrepiece of the event was the launch of a piece of research by Dr. Finbarr Bradley which presents ten examples of highly successful cultural tourism ventures which are using minority languages.

Dr. Bradley was able to draw on examples from Ireland and Scotland, but he also spoke of projects in South America, Finland, the Basque Country and New Zealand in his address. His central point was that in a world which is becoming increasingly small due to

technological advances, our sense of our own place gives us a distinct advantage in the marketplace. A substantial part of that distinction is our own language. "In a globalised world, making sense is more important than making stuff," he said. "Promoting and using our own language is not just about the language, it's about our own sustainability into the future," he continued.

Representatives from the main local tourism agencies including Fáilte Ireland, Visit Scotland and the Northern Ireland Tourism Board attended the event. "The aim of the conference was to inspire action and to get people thinking in new ways about how best to sell our story," said project officer Concubhar Ó Liatháin. "The

conference was structured with this in mind - with inspirational addresses from experts and practitioners and then workshops to set people on the right track and finally a further call to action."

The conference began with CeangalG's website launch on the evening of 27 February in the idyllic setting of a craft centre just adjacent to Ostán na Cúirte, the venue of the conference.

Minister for State for Gaeltacht Affairs and local TD (MP) Dinny McGinley was specifically invited to launch the website.

For more information on the CeangalG project, go to www.ceangalg.net or join them on Twitter @CeangalG.



Pictured (l-r) are Concubhar Ó Liatháin, Claire Nic Neacail (Administrator); Alasdair Morrison (Director, Ceangal G); Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs Donnchadh Mac Fhionnlaoidh; and Fionbar Ó Baoill, Training Manager.

EU Assistance gives Local Firms a 'Creative Edge'

Within Northern Ireland the Creative Edge project is led by Craigavon Borough Council. It was recently recognised by NILGA as being 'Best European Funded Initiative' in terms of local impact.

The main objective of the project is to attract and utilise home-grown talent to help increase the active participation of local creative firms and organisations within global markets. Supported under the Northern Periphery Programme the project has partners based in the West of Ireland, Lapland (Finland) and Vasterboten (Sweden).

The project's development of four Creative Hubs (for work, display and networking, learning and development, selling locally and exporting) has enabled 11 creative businesses to access unused commercial spaces in our town centres resulting in a range of regeneration and business benefits.

In addition Creative Edge has established a web based exporting platform called www.mycreativeedge.eu. Over 450 businesses are already using this platform to help achieve additional sales and support their business



Representatives from the Creative Edge project are awarded the 'Best European Funded Initiative' during a recent AGM by Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA).

growth. The site is used by creative industry businesses, freelancers and jobseekers in all of the Creative Edge Partner regions.

It provides an avenue for consumers and businesses to explore creative products and creative suppliers from across Europe's northern region. Creative business and freelancer members of the site have their own profile page which allows them to showcase their skills to potential employers.

Another successful output of the Creative Edge project called the 'Creative Steps' programme has helped bring young, creative individuals from Finland, Sweden, Ireland and Northern Ireland together to work on projects from

international businesses and organisations. Participants worked on their projects in teams and were also in direct contact with the business or organisation which initiated the idea.

Offering great work experience the programme included workshops, lectures and cultural exchange visits, held in both Finland and Northern Ireland. The workshops and lectures covered topics such as creative and business thinking, market communications, future market trends, consumer trends and other methods to help generate creative ideas.

For more information on the Creative Edge project go to www.creative-edge.eu

Inter-regional and Transnational Programmes



Transnational Programming 2014-2020

The Transnational Programmes are currently under development for the new programming period, 2014-2020. A number of publicly accessible consultations are being held for people to have their say on what the new programmes will look like. Updates will appear over the coming months in relation to the development of the new programmes, as and when new information becomes available. Please see below the relevant website links for each funding programme.

- Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014-2020 www.northernperiphery.eu/en/content/show/?tid=238
- North West Europe

Programme 2014-2020

http://www.nweurope.eu/index.php?act=page&page_on=about&id=1576

- Atlantic Area Programme 2014-2020 <http://atlanticarea.ccdr-n.pt/presentation/2014-2020>

New Name for Inter-regional Programmes

Inter-regional funding will continue under the new name of 'INTERREG Europe' in the 2014-2020 programming period. The aim of the programme is to promote exchange and transfer of knowledge and best practices among the European regions. The programme's public consultation, across Europe, ended on the 21st March 2014. However information on the outcomes of the consultation and draft

programme can be found on the following website: www.interreg4c.eu/interreg-europe/public-consultation

New Contact Point

Declan McGarrigle is the new Regional and Information Contact Point for the Transnational and Inter-regional Programmes. He is currently holding this post on a temporary basis.

Please contact him via telephone or email if you have any project ideas or for further information and discussion on the new programmes for 2014-2020.

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Renewable Energy in Action

PROJECT NEWS

Renewable energy in action was the theme of the recent INTERREG IVA funded Renewable Energy Network (REN Net) project Open Day in Baronscourt Estate. Members of the public joined existing Ren Net project members to get a unique insight into how a centuries' old building is adopting cutting-edge renewable technology.

Hosted by agent of the estate, Matt Stuart, the tour included a visit to two 20kw solar arrays, one of which is ground mounted. The group also got an overview of the current installation of a 150kw

woodchip boiler, which is at an advanced stage, along with a visit to the estate's woodchip facilities and the forest resource from which fuel will be obtained.

The Ren Net project supports a Renewable Energy Business Network and is being delivered through Cross Border partnership, led by the North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG). The partnership works together to develop the North West Region and is comprised of Derry City Council, Limavady Borough Council, Magherafelt District Council and Strabane District Council with Donegal

County Council being the Lead implementing Council for this particular project. Launched in March 2012 the project will complete in May of next year.

Organised by the Network, the Ren Net Open Day was a unique opportunity to learn more about working in or diversifying into the green economy. The aim of the network is to increase vitality and profitability for small/micro businesses and individuals engaged in renewable energy or those wishing to get involved in this growing sector.

Those in attendance included farmers, entrepreneurs and small business owners from across the northwest cross border region. The group also got the chance to network with people already working in renewable energy and learn how membership of Ren Net is benefitting businesses on both sides of the border.

For more information on the REN NET project go to <http://www.ren-net.org/main/> or follow them on Twitter @rennet2013.

Members of Ren Net, the Renewable Energy Business Network, enjoying a tour of Baronscourt Estate as part of the network's recent open day.



Cross Border Health Project Helps over 7,000 people

An EU funded cross border project has successfully treated over 7,000 patients for sexually transmitted infections across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Delivered via Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) the project provided funding for new sexual health clinics based within the Border Region of Ireland, with additional support given to existing clinics based in Derry-Londonderry and Newry.

These locally run GUM clinics, which are free of charge, have meant that people living within more remote areas of the region have better access to high quality sexual health services.

The clinics themselves are managed and run by specialist teams providing comprehensive care for people concerned about sexual health infection. The provision of enhanced healthcare is one of the core objectives of the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, which is designed to ensure greater access to essential services for people living across its eligible area. A total of £1.6 million was awarded



Letterkenny General Hospital sexual health / GUM clinic staff (l to r) Prof Wallace Dinsmore, GUM Consultant and Sonya Keeny, Clinical Nurse Manager. Also pictured are Brigid McGinty, Programme Manager, CAWT and Marian Martin, Project Manager, CAWT cross border sexual health/GUM project.

under the programme to invest in the new clinics.

Commenting on the success of the project, CAWT's Chief Officer, Bernie McCrory, said: "CAWT's role is to improve access and facilitate greater integration between both health services in the border area. The expansion of sexual health services in the border region is one of 12 cross border services which the CAWT partner organisations are taking forward during the current EU funding phase."

The CAWT Sexual health / Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) project is part of CAWT's 'Putting Patients, Clients and Families First' 12-project initiative, which is in receipt

of over €28million under the INTERREG IVA Programme. An independent assessment of the new service, based upon feedback from those using it has been extremely positive. A patient survey conducted across all of the new clinics that were set-up under the initiative found that respondents rated their clinic experience as either 'very good' or 'good'. The survey also found that 85.9% of respondents found the opening hours of the clinic they used to be either 'good' or 'very good'.

For more information on the work of the 'Putting Patients, Clients and Families First' programme go to www.cawt.com.

PROJECT NEWS...

Plans for New 'Garden of Reflection' Unveiled

PROJECT NEWS

Plans for a new PEACE III funded 'Garden of Reflection', to be located in the Pump Street Courtyard in Derry-Londonderry, were recently unveiled as part of a visit to the site by Northern Ireland's Social Development Minister, Nelson McCausland.

In receipt of over £2.3m of EU assistance the planned garden is part of a larger initiative developed by the Londonderry Inner City Trust which also includes a major light installation at each of the City of Derry's seven gates.

Welcoming the project Minister McCausland said: "The City Centre Garden of Reflection

will be an attractive and peaceful oasis in the city. It will also be a major resource for community relations and cross border relationship building as it will host a three year programme of events, which is currently being developed.

"The Garden will promote a shared future by transforming this derelict and underused space into a garden to be accessed and shared by all those in the future who live in and who visit the City," he continued.

Situated alongside a building that will house up to 11 local community based

organisations; the garden will act as a focal point for enhanced community relations development. It will include a crystal healing wall, various pieces of sculpture from local artists and a decorative water feature.

Still in its early stages of development the construction of the garden will begin in earnest over the summer months. A detailed programme of events will also be launched to help maximise its usage later in the year and ensure that the completed garden will be linked to other existing cultural and tourist landmarks across the City.

Highlighting the importance of the project, Pat Colgan Chief Executive of the SEUPB, said: "This initiative will build upon the extensive multi-million pound investment that the PEACE III Programme has delivered within the City of Derry. Following on from the Peace Bridge, the Siege of Derry museum and the hundreds of locally focused North West Peace Partnership projects, the Garden of Reflection underlines the commitment that the EU has to this part of the region".



Pictured (l-r) are Helen Quigley, Chief Executive of the Inner City Trust; Bishop James Mehaffey; Chairman John Eggleston, MWA Partnership (lead design consultant); Social Development Minister Nelson McCausland; Brenda Hegarty, SEUPB and the Mayor of Derry, Councillor Martin Reilly.

Innovation Recognised at i-Factory Awards

PROJECT NEWS...

Six local firms from across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland have been recognised for their achievements in innovation at the recent iFactory Celebration Conference and award ceremony.

Held in the City Hotel in Derry-Londonderry the event marked the end of the £1.65million EU INTERREG IVA funded iFactory project, which has been delivered by the North West Regional College and the Northern Ireland Business and Innovation Centre (NORIBIC).

A total of 15 other separate partners were also involved in the delivery of the project including all of Northern Ireland's further education colleges, Letterkenny and Sligo Institutes of technology alongside five county enterprise boards based in the Border Region.

During its life-span the iFactory project has helped over 150 local companies to improve their innovation capabilities. The top three project participant firms have managed to increase their turnover by over £1m and two technology companies have secured over £200,000 in innovation investment from external sources.

It has also been estimated that the support provided under the project has helped open up markets in 14 new export companies for local firms.

Discussing the merits of the project, Dr Bernard Toal, Chief Executive of NORIBIC, said; "A wide range of companies from across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland have participated in the iFactory programme over the last four years, receiving over 13,000 hours of direct mentoring support.

"We're delighted that their efforts have been recognised in this celebration conference and awards ceremony and we know that many of them will

continue on their innovation journey and go on to become extremely successful."

The winners on the night included Derry-based firms 'Uproar Comics' and 'Troll'; Larne's 'JT Spas'; 'Whoosh' from Coleraine; County Tyrone's 'ecohog' and 'PureHeat Technologies' from County Cavan.

Two famous entrepreneurs Martyn Dawes, founder of 'Coffee Nation' and Jo Malone, founder of fragrance company 'Jo Malone London' gave separate keynote addresses on their own experiences of the power of innovative thinking in business.

(Pictured l-r) Lorraine McCourt, SEUPB; David Moorhead from Tempo company Green Sword, a finalist in the Innovation in Export category of the iFactory awards, and Clare McGee from NORIBIC, which delivered the iFactory programme.



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:
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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:
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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:
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