



Section 75 Policy Screening Form

Part 1: Policy Scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy or policy area. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

You should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

Information about the policy

Name of the policy or policy area:

SEUPB PEACE IV: THEMES & OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy/policy area?

Existing	Revised	New
		X

Brief Description

This screening applies to the four themes and the Operational Programme (OP) attaching to the proposed EU PEACE IV Programme.

The PEACE IV Programme, with the support of the European Regional Development Fund, falls under the European Commission's (EC) European Structural Investment (ESI) framework and follows from the earlier programme, PEACE III.

PEACE IV is fully integral with, and informed by, the European Commission's key policy instruments, the Europe 2020 Strategy (EU2020) and the Common Strategic Framework (CSF). In summary, EU2020 establishes a Europe-wide ten-year growth strategy by clearly identifying five measurable targets to be achieved by 2020 around the areas of research and development expenditure; renewable energy generation; working age employment levels; educational achievement; and reduction in poverty and exclusion. In seeking to deliver against these five targets, the Commission provides three mutually reinforcing priorities namely smart growth; sustainable growth; and inclusive growth.

Within this broader European context, the Peace IV Programme has been established through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) monies within the European Structural and Investment (ESI).

In common with earlier rounds of funding (PEACE I – III), PEACE IV will represent a distinctive fund with specific, contemporary objectives that have been named within the Commission's Regulations, where it is noted that, 'in support of peace and reconciliation, the ERDF should also contribute to promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities'.

The forthcoming PEACE IV Programme (2014 - 2020) was developed taking due account of the findings of the public consultation held in 2012, together with the socio- economic review of the region, the policy objectives of administration in the eligible region, and the requirements of EU Regulations. In line with the regulations, the programme is required to adopt a strong result orientation.

Widespread public consultation¹ reinforced the need for PEACE IV to focus on Thematic Objective 9: Promoting Social Inclusion, Combating Poverty and any Discrimination, through a programme of targeted interventions in both Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (Counties Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim, Sligo and Donegal).

Based on this inclusive public consultation exercise, and informed by the lessons of the earlier PEACE Programmes and an existing evidential base², the following four themes have been identified for the 2014 - 2020 period (see Appendix 1 for further details):

¹ http://www.seupb.eu/Libraries/2014-2020_Programmes/2014-2020_Programmes_130305_Final_Summary_of_Consultation_Responses.sflb.ashx

² http://www.seupb.eu/Libraries/2014-2020_Programmes/ConsultationInformationDocument_Final.sflb.ashx

1. Shared Education
2. Children and Young People
3. Shared Spaces & Services
4. Civil Society

What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims and outcomes)

Within Thematic Objective 9 of the draft European Territorial Co-Operation Regulation, 'Social Inclusion and Combating Poverty', a new investment priority has been proposed by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. This specifically relates to the PEACE programme and includes wording around, 'promoting social and economic stability' and 'promoting cohesion between communities'³.

All proposed activities for the PEACE IV programme will attach to Thematic Objective 9, and will take due cognisance of all Section 75 groups, with particular attention placed on gender equality in line with UN 1325.

With these various draft Regulations in mind, the overarching aim of PEACE IV is:

'To promote social and economic stability in the regions concerned (i.e. Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland), in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities.'

In relation to PEACE IV's four themes, the following objectives have also been established:

Theme 1 – Shared Education (Allocation €45m ERDF) – The creation of a more cohesive society by increasing the sustained contact between school children from all backgrounds across the Programme area. The Programme aims to invest in areas such as the increased provision of shared education by creating ongoing and sustained sharing of classes, subjects, sports and extra-curricular activities between school children from all backgrounds.

Theme 2 – Children and Young People (aged under 26) (Allocation €50m ERDF) – Providing children and young people with the necessary skills and attitudes to contribute to a more cohesive society. In order to achieve this objective, young people from targeted interface areas who are not involved in employment, education and training (NEETs) will be

³http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CDQQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.seupb.eu%2FLibraries%2FPEACE_III_Reports_Pubs%2FPPIII_PPMC13Paper5NewProgrammeDevelopment_131008__PEACE_III_Paper_5_New_Programmes.sflb.ashx&ei=RTXJUoWcCuKM7Aac2oH4Dg&usg=AFQjCNHmACulLudZnFPgcjnh1-8D4S0g-g&bvm=bv.58187178,d.d2k&cad=rja

encouraged to get involved in meaningful and sustained cross community activities aimed at enhancing their understanding and respect for other cultures and beliefs, providing them with the tools to access opportunities in society and improving their employability,

Theme 3 – Shared Spaces and Services (Allocation €90m ERDF) - The creation of a more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services. In order to achieve this objective, the Programme will invest in; (i) the creation of new shared civic spaces; and (ii) the usage of existing civic spaces; which contribute to social and economic development in targeted areas of the region to build and enhance respect for diversity.

Theme 4 – Civil Society (Allocation €30m ERDF) – The creation of a society characterised by good relations and respect, where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance. In order to achieve this objective, the Programme will invest in sustainable networks and strong civil leadership to promote the creation of and the participation in cross community events that will build respect and good relationships across communities in Northern Ireland and the Border Region.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

YES	NO	N/A
X		

If YES, explain how.

The four themes have been selected to focus particular attention on groups of special need, and many of these fall within the domain of Section 75. For example, under Themes 1 and 2 young people, and especially those from disadvantaged areas, have been targeted while under Theme 3 those with a disability that is related to the legacy of conflict are afforded attention. More generally, in combination the themes aspire to improve the well-being of all citizens of Northern Ireland through the promotion of tolerance, respect and inclusiveness.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Cohesion Policy of the European Union provides a framework for financing a wide range of projects and investments with the aim of encouraging economic growth in EU Member

States and their regions. The policy is reviewed by the EU institutions once every seven years. The next round of programmes, including PEACE IV, covers the period 2014 - 2020.

In March 2010 the European Commission published *Europe 2020 – A Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth*. The Strategy was approved by the European Council in June 2010. The document sets out concrete targets to be achieved within the next decade in areas such as employment, education, energy and innovation in order to overcome the impact of the financial crisis and put Europe back on track for economic growth. This Strategy has become the cornerstone of all EU policies and programmes. Preparation of operational programmes for the period 2014 to 2020 must take account of this strategy and contain proposals that will contribute to the attainment of the targets set out in Europe 2020.

Three EU Regulations set out the rules within which both the PEACE and INTERREG cross-border operational programmes must be prepared, agreed and implemented. The EU Regulations were approved on 17 December 2013 and came into force on 21 December 2013. These are:

Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 laying down the Common Provisions for all funds including ERDF;

This proposal sets out common rules on planning of programmes, thematic objectives, financial management and monitoring and evaluation of programmes. These rules will apply to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the investment for growth and jobs goal;

This proposal sets out the rules in relation to the overall goals of cohesion policy and the management and control systems for cohesion policy funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Funding for the PEACE and INTERREG programmes will come from ERDF and are therefore subject to the provisions of this regulation.

Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development to the European Territorial Cooperation goal;

This proposal sets out the specific programming and reporting arrangements for cross-border, transnational and interregional programmes. It sets out the priority objectives the ERDF, eligibility criteria, financial resources available and criteria for their allocation. It also

sets the implementation arrangements, including plans for financial management and control. The PEACE and INTERREG Programmes will be funded as European Territorial Co-operation Programmes and are therefore subject to the provisions of this regulation.

These three regulations form part of a package of proposals which are collectively referred to as the Common Strategic Framework (CSF). The other draft regulations in this package relate to the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). Whilst these draft regulations have no direct impact on cross-border programmes, they would have to be considered if joint funding mechanisms are to be employed.

Locally, SEUPB (NI) will oversee and coordinate the PEACE IV Programme, including the operating rules, application process, management of resources, project support and evaluation.

Who owns and who implements each element of the policy?

The SEUPB has been tasked by two Member States (UK and Ireland) to prepare two operational programmes for the period 2014 to 2020. These programmes will be the successors to the current INTERREG IVA and PEACE III programmes.

In order to ensure that the new programmes will be ready for implementation during 2014, the SEUPB has been involved in a lengthy planning process based on the regulations.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

YES	NO	N/A
X		

If YES, are they

Financial: YES (If YES, please detail)

The agreed level of programme funding is €229m ERDF. The intervention rate will be 85%, with the additional 15% being provided from non-EU sources. The allocation of funding to the four identified themes will be subject to public consultation and agreement with the Member States and the EU Commission.

Legislative: Y / N (If YES, please detail)

In November 2010 the European Commission published the Fifth Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion *Investing in Europe's Future*. This report contained proposals for its Cohesion Policy for the period 2014 - 2020. During 2011 the Commission conducted widespread consultation on these proposals, culminating in the publication of a legislative package of regulations and associated budget for the period 2014 to 2020. The budget, referred to as the *Multi Annual Financial Framework* (MFF), and associated regulations were approved in December 2013 by the EU Council and the EU Parliament. All programme activity must be consistent with this regulatory framework and any additional subsidiary legislation (delegated acts) that is approved by the EU.

Other, please specify:

N/A

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

Staff:

The project will be managed by SEUPB staff in line with normal contractual arrangements.

Service users:

The Programme will impact on all citizens of Northern Ireland.

Other public sector organisations:

A wide spectrum of public and private sector organisations are likely to be involved in the delivery of the Programme.

Voluntary/community/trade unions:

The Programme will involve engagement with the voluntary/community sector and relevant trade unions. These sectors will be represented on the Programme Monitoring Committee and Steering Committees.

Other, please specify:

Given that the Programme is so wide in scope, it is likely to have an impact on Northern Ireland and its citizens. However, this impact is likely to be positive and will bring benefits to the local community through selective investment in relevant projects.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they and who owns them?

There are various strategies in place within the eligible region and Europe that complement the chosen themes of the PEACE IV Programme. Local policies that have a direct bearing on PEACE IV include:

- Together: Building a United Community (OFMDFM, 2013)
- Victims Strategy 2013-15 'Making a Difference' (OFMDFM, 2013)
- A Shared Future: Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland (OFMDFM, 2005)
- Peace Monitoring Report 2013 (Community Relations Council, 2013)
- Northern Ireland Programme for Government 2011 – 2015 (OFMDFM, March 2012)
- The Northern Ireland Act 1998
- European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages 1992
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Race Relations (NI) Order 1997
- Fair Employment and Treatment (NI) Order 1998
- Section 75 & Schedule 9 NI Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- NI (St Andrews Agreement) Act 2006
- ECNI Guidance on Promoting a Good and Harmonious Working Environment 2009
- Lifetime Opportunities – Government's Anti-Poverty and Social inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland (OFMDFM, 2006)
- Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012 – 2017 (DOJ, 2012)
- A Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2005-2010 (OFMDFM, 2005)
- Northern Ireland Gender Equality Strategy 2006 – 2016 (OFMDFM, 2006)
- Improving Children's Life Chances - The Child Poverty Strategy (OFMDFM, 2011)
- Our Children and Young People Our Pledge A Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People In NI 2006-2016 (OFMDFM, 2006)

- Children’s and Young People’s Strategy Action Plan 2010-2013 (DARD, 2010);
- Ageing in an Inclusive Society - Promoting the Social Inclusion of Older People (OFMDFM, 2005)
- Pathways to Success: Preventing Exclusion and Promoting Participation of Young People (DEL, 2012)
- Northern Ireland Gender Equality Strategy 2006-2016 (OFMDFM, 2007)
- Physical and Sensory Disability Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2015 (DHSSPS, 2012)
- A Strategy to Improve the Lives of People with Disabilities - 2012 to 2015 (OFMDFM, 2012)
- Caring for Carers Recognising, Valuing and Supporting the Caring Role (DHSSPS, 2006)
- The Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland 2011 – 2021 (SIB, 2011)
- Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025 (DRD, 2001)
- Review of Public Administration (DOE, ongoing)
- Investing for Health – Developing a new Public Health Strategy for Northern Ireland
- A Strategy to Improve the Lives of People with a Disability 2012-2015 (OFMDFM, 2012)
- Equality Awareness Survey 2011 (ECNI, 2012)
- Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (<http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/>)

Beyond Northern Ireland, other relevant policies include the following:

Ireland

- National Children’s Strategy, Our Children – Their Lives, Department of Health, 2000
- The National Spatial Strategy for Ireland 2002-2020
- Healthy Ireland – A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025

European

- First Annual Convention of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion (Oct 2011)
- EU Territorial Co-operation (ETC) Regulations

Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for relevant Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information
Religious belief Political opinion Racial group Gender Age Disability Dependency	<p>In developing the four themes for PEACE IV, SEUPB has conducted extensive research on the demographics of the region, and also its social, cultural, economic and political history. A summary of key findings from this research is provided below.</p> <p>The analysis has also drawn on the Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report (Nolan, 2013) and is informed by the 2011 Census, 2013 Mid Term Evaluation of the PEACE III Programme and the NI Life & Times Survey 2010.⁴</p> <p><i>A Society of Minority National Identities</i></p> <p>Traditionally within Northern Ireland and the Border Region, religion has provided a powerful marker for national identity. The recent outcome of the 2011 Census in Northern Ireland however, provides statistical evidence that the concept of national identity is very complex. For the first time the Census asked a question on national identity that gave the respondent the option of selecting multiple identities, including Irish, British and Northern Irish. Only 9% of the population regarded themselves as being of dual identity; 21% of the population classify themselves as Northern Irish; 25% regard themselves as Irish (compared to a 45% Catholic share of the population), and 40% regard themselves as British (compared to a 48% Protestant share of the population). It is clear therefore that a diverse perception of national identity is held across the region. Of relevance to the PEACE IV Programme is the emerging fact that religious background and</p>

⁴ A copy of the full research report is available on request from SEUPB

national identity is not as strongly fixed as it would have been in the past.

A Society with a Declined Tendency for Residential Segregation

Census 2011 provides evidence that there has been a significant shift in patterns of housing choice. When compared to the 2001 Census, there has been a move towards more sharing of residential areas. The proportion of electoral wards with a single identity (as defined by having 80% or more of the same religion) has fallen from 55.5% in 2001 to 37% in 2011. Furthermore, there has been an increase in the number of wards where no community has a majority of over 50%. This has gone up from 13 (2.2%) to 18 (4.8%) between 2001 and 2011. However, despite an overall positive shift in residential segregation housing patterns, there has been little change in the most segregated areas in East and West Belfast and Derry/Londonderry.

A Geographically Differentiated Society

Despite progress made in relation to shared living, the deprivations indices report stark geographical trends in relation to the two communities (based on religion). For example, Catholic majority areas experience a higher level of socio economic disadvantage, accounting for 80% of the top 20 most deprived wards and only 30% of the least deprived wards. This differential is less marked when the most severely disadvantaged areas are considered. Deprivation indices show that 22% of Catholic households experience poverty, compared to 17% of Protestant households⁵.

Overall unemployment in the two communities tends to be similar on a pro rata basis. However, this does not hold in the demographic group of 18 to 24 year olds, where 20% of Catholics are unemployed, compared to 15% of Protestants in the same age group.

From a health perspective, the life expectancy of a man in the predominantly Catholic area of West Belfast is three years less (72.5) than his counterpart in the predominantly Protestant area of East Belfast (75.5). In terms of education, seven out of ten areas of lowest achievement are in

⁵ Annual Family Resources Survey (February 2013)

Protestant working class areas.

When educational achievement is considered by gender, class and religion, there is evidence that Protestant disadvantaged communities fare less well than their Catholic counterparts

A Society More at Ease With Differences

The overall rates for hate crime in Northern Ireland have been diminishing over recent years. The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) statistics⁶ show overall hate crime have reduced by approximately 10% between the years 2010/11 and 2012/13.

The most common hate crime in the region in 2012/13 is sectarianism, which accounts for over 57% of all hate crime, the second most common category is race crime which accounts for 30.1% of all hate crime. The third most common category of hate crime recorded in 2012/13 is homophobic crime which accounts for 9.5% of all hate crimes. There have been reductions in most of the principal categories of hate crimes, relative to 2010/11: sectarian crimes in 2012/13 are down by 10.7%; race crimes in 2012/13 are down by 11.5%.

The overall figure for hate crime in Northern Ireland is higher than that for England and Wales (1.4% vs. 1.1%). When sectarianism is excluded from these statistics, the percentage in Northern Ireland is much lower than in England and Wales (0.6%). This provides evidence of the idiosyncratic nature of sectarian based hate crime in Northern Ireland and the need for PEACE IV to target this phenomenon.

Education

The education system in Northern Ireland consists of different types of schools under the control of management committees who are also the employers of teachers⁷. There are over 322,000 students in pre-school,

⁶ Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/5 to 2012/13. Annual bulleting 5th July 2013. Page 9.

⁷ Department of Education Northern Ireland website http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/85-schools/10-types_of_school-nischools_pg.htm

primary and secondary education in Northern Ireland. Overall, 92.6% of children attend schools that are predominantly associated with one community. In Ireland, over 90% of schools are owned and maintained by the Catholic Church⁸ with only 2% of schools being described as multi-denominational⁹. There are no specific statistics available for the Border Region.

The pledge made within the Belfast Agreement that government would “*facilitate and encourage integrated education*” has proven to be a challenging commitment to deliver in the short to medium term, with only 6.8% of NI pupils enrolled in integrated primary or post primary schools¹⁰ and 2% in Ireland. Despite this low representation, support for the ethos of integrated schooling is strong across the region. A February 2013 opinion poll¹¹ reported that 69% of polled persons considered integrated schooling to represent the best preparation for living in a diverse society.

There is also evidence of public support for the related concept of shared education. A poll published in the Belfast Telegraph in June 2012 asked: ‘Should the Education Minister encourage state and Catholic schools to share facilities and / or teachers in view of falling pupil numbers and cuts in funding?’ Three out of four who expressed an opinion said yes. When the undecided are included in the results, support was lower but still significant, at 54%¹². Recognising the complexities of implementing integrated education, the Programme for Government in Northern Ireland supports shared education, which is predicated on a model of good relations and improved educational outcomes¹³. It identifies targets to provide children with the opportunity to participate in shared education programmes and to increase the number of schools sharing facilities.

In recent years, the Department of Education in Northern Ireland has undertaken much work in this area in partnership with the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and Atlantic Philanthropies. Throughout the school

⁸ <http://www.citizensinformation.ie>

⁹ <http://www.educatetogether.ie>

¹⁰ Nolan, P. (2013) Number of Protestant and Catholic pupils by School Type 2011-12.

¹¹ Integrated Education Fund Lucid Talk Poll, February 2013, Integrated Education Fund, Belfast.
<http://www.ief.org.uk>

¹² Nolan, P. (2013) page 128.

¹³ Northern Ireland Executive (2012)

process, increased social mixing can contribute to greater tolerance and through raised expectations, improve educational performance for the most deprived pupils¹⁴. There is an opportunity in PEACE IV to build upon and further develop the work that has been undertaken in this area to bring about a more inclusive society within Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Celebration of Identity in a Nation of Minorities

The stability of the NI economy is vulnerable to the shocks and impacts of public displays of civic unrest related to the manner in which communities express their national and cultural identity. Achieving community consensus on sensitive issues such as flags, emblems, parades and other expressions of national and cultural identity is a high priority. It also presents a significant challenge for leadership within civil society.

The number of marches held in a year in Northern Ireland has increased significantly over the past three decades – from 1,897 in 1985 to 4,320 in 2012. The 2012 figure represents a sizeable year-on-year increase on 2011 with an increase of 9%.

The period for implementation of the PEACE IV Programme coincides with a number of commemorations of key historical dates and events. The decade from 2012 to 2022 is referred to in Ireland and Northern Ireland as the *Decade of Centenaries* or the *Decade of Commemorations*. Among the events that will be commemorated are: the Government of Ireland Act (1920), the Anglo Irish Treaty (1921), the beginning of the First World War (1914); the Easter Rising (1916); and the First Battle of the Somme (1916).

All of these commemorations are of great importance to both communities on the island of Ireland and in the United Kingdom. A joint statement issued by the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister on the decade of commemorations (12th March 2012)¹⁵ said that both Governments were committed to working with the Northern Ireland Executive to ensure that these commemorations would contribute to greater reconciliation rather

¹⁴ A Final Evaluation of the International Fund for Ireland's Sharing in Education Programme 2013, The Education and Training Inspectorate

¹⁵ Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht website <http://www.decadeofcentenaries.com/statement/>

than division. The decade of commemorations could serve to invoke a renewed sense of individual and group identity or reinforce a sense of 'otherness' or difference. It could also serve to highlight or emphasise a sense of commonality and collective experience, not previously articulated.

The *Northern Ireland 2010 Life and Times Survey* indicates that there is widespread acknowledgement (62%) that Northern Ireland is still not a place free from displays of sectarian aggression; with 87% of respondents agreeing with the assertion that better relations will come about through more integration. The Mid-Term Evaluation of PEACE III identified the need for future funding to address issues surrounding the sense of identity within communities and tackling the challenges presented by symbols, flags and related issues. The evaluation also recommended that there should be increased emphasis in PEACE IV on cross community work as opposed to single identity interventions in order to reduce the risk of entrenching divisions. This will require investment in the development of civil leadership within local communities and across society.

PEACE IV has the potential to leave a lasting legacy in Northern Ireland and the Border Region by addressing these challenges. Communities must be encouraged to take pride in their culture, customs and heritage in a manner that does not alienate or antagonise other sections of the wider community. The upcoming period of anniversaries should be viewed as an opportunity for dialogue and debate, education and information-sharing, cross community collaboration and partnership building, based on leadership within civil society.

Early Years & Young People

Over one third of the population in Northern Ireland is under the age of 25 years and therefore has had no direct experience of the major civil unrest and violent conflict of the recent past. Despite this, the underlying issues of segregation and exclusion are still prevalent in this generation. This was very apparent from the involvement of this age group in the flag protests of December 2012 and the riots surrounding the July parades in the Ardoyne area of Belfast in 2013. The *Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report* (Nolan, 2013) states that "During the flags dispute that ran through the

winter of 2012-13, much attention was focused on east Belfast and it was frequently asserted that the unrest was not just about the removal of the Union Flag from the City Hall but underlying social and economic disadvantage.”¹⁶

Research shows that children in Northern Ireland learn the cultural and political preferences of their own community by the age of three, and by the age of six one third of children recognise that they are a member of either the Protestant or Catholic communities, with 1 in 6 making sectarian statements¹⁷. Research carried out by the Young National Children's Bureau in January 2013¹⁸ indicates that parents have the biggest influence in shaping young people's attitudes towards other religions and cultures. This situation demonstrates that the attitudes of many young people need to be challenged to become more inclusive and accepting of diversity. This is particularly relevant given the continuing prevalence (albeit reduced in its extent) of segregated housing and schooling.

Policy attention has focused on young people aged 16 to 24 identified as not in employment, education or training' or NEETs. A Department of Employment and Learning policy document, *Pathways to Success*, was launched in May 2012. The document linked the concentration of NEETs in the communities that experience high levels of exclusion and bear the greatest strain in terms of material and social deprivation, with the fact that these communities were those that suffered most from violence. They also continue to experience segregated patterns of living and, to a significant extent, working. Recent reports in Northern Ireland¹⁹ and Ireland²⁰ show that the percentage of NEETs has increased significantly over the period 2006 to 2011 and the number of those who made the transition into employment has fallen.

The PEACE IV Programme presents an opportunity to work with disengaged young men and women to provide them with a sense of belonging, reduce the appeal of partaking in street violence and open up

¹⁶ Nolan (2013), page 101

¹⁷ 'Too young to Notice', Professor Paul Connolly, Queen's University Belfast, 2002

¹⁸ *Investigating Young People's Attitudes to Sectarianism in Northern Ireland*, Young National Children's Bureau, January 2013

¹⁹ Nolan (2013) page 102

²⁰ Kelly, E., McGuinness, S. (2013) *The Impact of the Recession on the Structure and Labour Market Success of Young Unemployed and NEET Individuals in Ireland*, ESRI, Dublin

opportunities for them to engage in education and training to increase their employability and sense of citizenship. This can be achieved by developing formal educational, training and work experience opportunities on a cross border and cross community basis through the statutory providers of these services. It can also be achieved through the more informal youth work sector.

Interface Areas & Lack of Shared Space

There are many different kinds of interface areas in Northern Ireland²¹. The most well known of these are the Peace Walls, many of which (58) are owned by the Department of Justice. In addition, there are 41 other barriers throughout Northern Ireland, bringing the total number to 99²². The Peace Walls are for the most part walls, fences, gates or barriers between communities. The most recent survey on the attitudes of residents to the removal of the Peace Walls²³ reported that 58% of interface residents were in favour of the barriers being removed. This increased to 76% when the views of the wider population were taken into account. This widespread support for action is mirrored in the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment to removing all interfaces by 2020, as detailed in the recently published *Together: Building A United Community* (TBUC Strategy), which recognises the importance of dealing with people's actual and perceived safety resulting from barrier removal.

In addition to the physical barriers, there exist virtual barriers (e.g. retail businesses, shopping malls or streets patronised by one community to the almost full exclusion of another community) which not only act as a reinforcement of division, but also negatively impact small businesses. The impact of the PEACE Bridge in Derry / Londonderry, financed by the PEACE III Programme, is a good example of what can be achieved by creating shared space that opens up the potential for increased engagement between communities and increased normalisation of economic activity. The creation of shared space however requires a great deal of work with the communities on either side of the interface area and

²¹ Nolan, P. (2013) para. 9.1.

²² Byrne, J., Gormley-Keenan, C., and Robinson, G. (2012) *Peace walls, public attitudes and impact on policy*, Policy Brief University of Ulster / Institute for Research in Social Sciences.

²³ Byrne et al (2012)

	<p>an investment in the normalisation of the resultant shared space. The PEACE IV Programme provides the opportunity to complement the stated objectives of the TBUC Strategy by working with local authorities and local communities towards the creation of shared spaces in cities, towns and local communities. This may include the creation of additional iconic shared spaces or working towards the normalisation of public places to make them safe for all communities.</p>
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Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of Needs/Experiences/Priorities
All	<p>Those who face barriers to accessibility of consultation materials relating to the Programme and its Operational Programme, because of either special language requirements or physical barriers, may need to be accommodated in both the planning and implementation of PEACE IV.</p> <p>PEACE IV must accommodate all relevant anti-discrimination statutes and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex Discrimination (NI) Order 1976 • Disability Discrimination Act 1995 • Race Relations (NI) Order 1997 • Fair Employment & Treatment (NI) Order 1998 • Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (NI) 2006 • Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (NI) 2006 <p>These statutes permit certain positive action measures but generally outlaw positive discrimination.</p> <p>Furthermore, Article 16 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 on Equality between Men and Women and Non-discrimination states:</p> <p>‘The Member States and the Commission shall ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of the gender perspective is promoted during the various stages of implementation of the Funds. The Member States and the Commission shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the various stages of implementation of the Funds and, in particular, in the access to them. In</p>

	<p>particular, accessibility for disabled persons shall be one of the criteria to be observed in defining operations co-financed by the Funds and to be taken into account during the various stages of implementation.'</p>
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Part 2: Screening Questions

Introduction

1. If the conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 categories, then you may decide to screen the policy **out**. If a policy is 'screened out', you should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.
2. If the conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to an EQIA.
3. If the conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an EQIA, or to measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or an alternative policy.

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and hence it would be appropriate to conduct an EQIA;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns among affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;

- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of none

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
 b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Taking into account the earlier evidence, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity / good relations for those affected by this policy, by applying the following screening questions and the impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 grounds? Minor/Major/None		
Section 75 Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of Impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	The four themes and OP attaching to PEACE IV are based on available research and aspire to benefit all sectors of the community in Northern Ireland, and to encourage better relations with neighbouring regions and including border counties. Themes 3 and 4 in particular aim to reduce divisions between divided communities and thereby help to build a united community.	Major (positive)
Political opinion	The four themes and OP attaching to PEACE IV are based on available research and aspire to benefit all sectors of the community in Northern Ireland, and to encourage better relations with neighbouring regions and including border counties. Themes 3 and 4 in particular aim to reduce divisions between divided communities and thereby help to build a united community.	Major (positive)
Racial / ethnic group	The four themes and OP attaching to PEACE IV are based on available research and aspire to	Major

	benefit all sectors of the community in Northern Ireland, and to encourage better relations with neighbouring regions and including border counties. Theme 4 in particular aims to promote tolerance and respect.	(positive)
Age	The four themes and OP attaching to PEACE IV are based on available research and aspire to benefit all sectors of the community in Northern Ireland, and to encourage better relations with neighbouring regions and including border counties. Young people, and including those from disadvantaged areas, are a particular focus of Themes 1 and 2.	Major (positive)
Marital status	No identifiable impact.	None
Sexual orientation	No identifiable impact.	None
Men and women generally	The four themes and OP attaching to PEACE IV are based on available research and aim to benefit all sectors of the community in Northern Ireland, and to encourage better relations with neighbouring regions and including border counties. Under Article 16 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, the Programme specifically commits to promoting equality between men and women	Minor (positive)
Disability	Generally, PEACE IV aspires to improve the quality of life and wellness of all citizens of Northern Ireland through its thematic objectives. More specifically, the Programme aspires to address long term health issues attaching to the Troubles, and in particular under Theme 3.	Minor (positive)
Dependants	Measures designed to promote social inclusion should benefit those with dependants.	Minor (positive)



2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within any of the Section 75 categories?		
Section 75 Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
All		The four themes, separately and in combination, deliberately aspire to promote equality of opportunity and good relations, in both the short and long term.
Race Disability	The application process could aspire to accommodate those who may have difficulties with standard application procedures.	
Gender Disability Age Religious belief	Lawful positive action measures could be considered to encourage applications from under-represented groups.	

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? Minor/Major/None		
Good Relations Category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	Through Themes 1 - 4, the programme will encourage good relations through a series of measures that aspire to build a cohesive, united community based on tolerance, respect and inclusivity.	Major (positive)
Political opinion	Through Themes 1 - 4, the programme will encourage good relations through a series of measures that aspire to build a cohesive, united community based on tolerance, respect and inclusivity.	Major (positive)
Racial group	Through Themes 1 - 4, the programme will encourage good relations through a series of measures that aspire to build a cohesive, united	Major

	community based on tolerance, respect and inclusivity.	(positive)
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4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief Political opinion Racial group		PEACE IV is likely to enhance good relations through the framing of targeted initiatives and positive actions.

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

The above comments will also apply to considerations where one or more protected characteristic combine.

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

N/A

Part 3: Screening Decision

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should: (please underline one):

- 1. Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)**
- 2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)**
- 3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time**
- 4. Be subject to an EQIA**

If 1. or 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

PEACE IV has been developed not only to align with wider EU policy designed to promote economic and social cohesion between all communities but also to reflect a range of local initiatives that will help move Northern Ireland forward positively in its post-conflict era. The four themes and associated OP are based on considerable research and reflect current thinking.

If 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?

SEUPB will commit to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that any barriers to engagement with PEACE IV, and including the application process, will be afforded due consideration, and positive action measures will be considered where appropriate, and lawful.

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy at a future date?

NO

If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

Timetabling and Prioritising EQIA

If 3. or 4., is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? YES / NO

If YES, please provide details:

Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for EQIA.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority's functions	

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: _____

Any further comments on the screening process and any subsequent actions?

The screening has helped confirm that PEACE IV will have a significant and positive impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

Part 4: Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development. You should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007). The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, then you should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

SEUPB will commit to working with NISRA and the Programme Monitoring Committee to develop mechanisms to monitor the impact of the programme in relation to promoting equality of opportunity and good relations. Where any adverse impact is identified through routine monitoring then SEUPB commits to take all reasonable steps to remedy the problem.

Part 5: Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
IAN BODEN	PROGRAMME OFFICER	02/06/2014
JOHN KREMER	EXTERNAL CONSULTANT	02/06/2014
Approved by:		
SHAUN HENRY	DIRECTOR	02/06/2014

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on your website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.