

Special EU Programmes Body

# Project Case Study

## Peace Bridge (Foot and Cycle Bridge)

Programme:  
**PEACE III Programme**

Theme:  
**Creating Shared Spaces**

Funding: £14.7 million

Lead Partner: ilex urban  
regeneration company

Website: [www.ilex-urc.com/Projects/Peace-Bridge.aspx](http://www.ilex-urc.com/Projects/Peace-Bridge.aspx)

Project contact: [info@ilex-urc.com](mailto:info@ilex-urc.com)

Geographical area:  
Northern Ireland and  
(North West) Ireland

The Peace bridge project has created an iconic foot and cycle bridge which connects the mainly Catholic city-side of Derry-Londonderry with the predominantly Protestant Ebrington area.

Part of a larger peace and reconciliation plan for the city the bridge has acted as a catalyst for long-term social change and has led to a significant increase in cross-community interaction. The curve of the bridge represents a hand-shake of two different communities across the River Foyle and has permanently altered the landscape of the city.

Measuring 235m bank-to-bank and 312m in total the bridge runs from behind the Guildhall Square to the Parade Ground in the former Ebrington Barracks.

Thousands of local people attended the launch of the bridge which was officially

opened by EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn in June 2011. Since that time over one million citizens have used the bridge which has become firmly embedded into the fabric of the city.

Speaking at the launch event, Commissioner Hahn, said: "One of the key objectives of the European Union is to bring people together to live in peace, with a common respect both for shared values for diversity. The European Commission is particularly committed to helping the people of this region as they work towards the goal of lasting peace and prosperity."

Since its completion the bridge has won a number of international construction awards including the Structural Steel Design Awards 2012, the Arthur G Hayden Medal and the Global BIM Award.



### Key Project Outputs:

- **Provision of a iconic 235 foot and cycle bridge across the River Foyle.**
- **Removal of an existing 'ethnic boundary' marker.**
- **Provision of a peace and reconciliation plan for the local area.**
- **Provide ready access for the local residents of the Waterside to the city centre retail and commercial hub.**
- **Give easy access from the city-side to the regenerated Ebrington site and the sports facilities at St. Columb's Park.**

