

Special EU Programmes Body

Project Case Study

Programme:
PEACE III

Football for All — ‘Looking Back to Move Forward’

Theme:
**Acknowledging & Dealing
with the Past**

Funding:
£510,957.28

Lead Partner:
Irish Football Association

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Geographical area:
Northern Ireland / Border
Region of Ireland

The Football for All project uses football as a hook to promote peace and reconciliation as well as reduce sectarianism and racism with those involved in the sport.

It does this by building the capacity of football clubs, fans and communities to address tackle these issues head on.

The ‘Looking Back to Move Forward’ project specifically aims to reach beyond the sport by investing in education and social development in order to create advocates for positive change within local communities and peer groups.

A number of different tools are used to reach this goal including ‘Dealing with the past’ seminar events; intergenerational story-telling workshops and the creation of a

FFA youth forum to give young people a voice on various community relations issues. The project is delivered along with the continued support and work within the domestic football leagues and international supporters groups.

Commenting on the project Northern Ireland International Manager Michael O’Neill, said:

“Grassroots initiatives like Street League and Limestone United (supported under the project) demonstrate how sport is able to harness a common passion, and use it as a basis to promote learning, respect for diversity and self improvement.”

Key Project Outputs:

- Recruitment of a full-time FFA project co-ordinator in Derry-Londonderry.
- Creation of Football for All Youth Forum.
- Establish working linkages with the:
 - Ardoyne Interface Programme,
 - Limestone United,
 - Women’s World United Intercultural Football Programme, and the
 - Belfast Street League. (for homeless men).



Football for All Team members.