

YOUR EU!

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

INTERREG IVA Programme
Innovation Growth Centre
Opens in Omagh

PEACE III Programme
SS Nomadic – Sharing
our Past

Real Life Interview
Building a Legacy
of Peace

News & Info
EU Funded Foyle Marina
Wins Tourism Award



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 – 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



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YOUR EU!

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The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. The Body was established on 2 December 1999, under the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland (8 March 1999), which created the implementing bodies.

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

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Foreword

Welcome to the summer edition of Your EU!

This edition of our quarterly news letter looks at a number of business focused projects funded under the INTERREG IVA Programme. These include the official opening of the new Innovation and Growth Centre in Omagh, a new medical technologies project entitled 'Life Sciences' and two initiatives aimed at promoting the export potential of local businesses: 'Gateways to Growth' and 'Access 6'. Another important milestone in the promotion of the region's business potential was the organisation of the European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN) Congress, which was supported by the SEUPB and included the participation of several INTERREG funded projects. The high-profile annual event was organised by NORIBIC in Derry/Londonderry and had as keynote speaker the co-founder of Apple, Steve Wozniak.

We also report on two very worthwhile projects dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities and sensory impairment. The Citizenship Programme and

the Sensory Engagement Project are two great examples of how small initiatives can make a significant difference in the life of people with disabilities, as well as enhance inclusiveness within our society.

On the PEACE III Programme, we look at some of the recent events which have highlighted the impact the programme has had in the region. In the past few months, events showcasing the work of PEACE III funded initiatives have taken place at the NI Assembly, and at the Battle of the Boyne Centre, as part of an event organised by the Irish Presidency of the EU. The latter including the participation of ambassadors from all the EU member states. Finally, the SEUPB took part in a three-day Peace Conference organised by the Rotary Club of Londonderry, where it reflected upon the work of the PEACE Programme since its inception in 1995.

As usual, this news letter also provides an update on the Transnational and Interregional programmes. In this edition we look more closely at an energy efficiency



project (NEES) funded under the Northern Periphery Programme.

The New Programmes Development Team within the SEUPB continues to work hard on the preparation for the new programming period (2014-2020). We hope to be able to bring you more news on this and on the planned public consultation on the draft operational programmes in the next edition of Your EU! I welcome your feedback on the projects and activities featured in this edition.

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive, SEUPB

FOREWORD...

€2.2m Funding for Food & Drink Sector

PROJECT NEWS

A new €2.2 million EU INTERREG IVA-funded project aims to increase sales turnover by €30 million amongst a core group of 90 food and drink manufacturers, as well as enhancing the marketing skills of 400 companies in western Scotland, Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland.

'Access 6' is an innovative programme which introduces the concept of 'co-opetition', bringing together the collective skills and experience of the sector's three main representative bodies – the Irish Exporters Association (IEA), Northern Ireland Food & Drink (NIFDA) and Scotland Food & Drink (SFD).

Over the next three years these three bodies will work collaboratively with a core group of 90 food and drink manufacturers from across the region (30 per jurisdiction) to overcome the barriers which have hampered growth and establish a strong presence on the world market. The project will provide mentoring, marketing assistance and logistical support, to help develop the skills required to trade in key

export markets such as Europe or the USA.

In addition to sales growth, the programme aims to create an additional 90 new jobs within the participating businesses, and also up-skill a further 400 SMEs across the region. The main project objective is to reinvigorate the food & drink sector on a cross-border basis, helping it achieve world-class status. While initially selected on a geographical basis, the participating companies will be grouped into market-specific clusters. Each cluster will also work alongside a channel partner within each export market, such as major distributor, wholesaler or retail multiple. This will create a strong competitive advantage by providing a direct route to the end market.

Welcoming the launch of the programme, Lorraine McCourt, Director, SEUPB, said: "This EU-funded project is truly

unique and will provide an invaluable boost for the food & drink sector on a cross-border basis. Not only will it benefit those companies selected to participate but it will also significantly impact on the long term competitiveness of the industry through job creation, skills development and R&D."

For further information on Access 6 contact Lorna Duffy - LornaDuffy@irishexporters.ie



The project leaders at the launch of the Access 6 project.

SS Nomadic – Sharing our Past

The SS Nomadic, the last remaining White Star Line ship in the world, was officially opened at Hamilton Dock in Belfast in May. Over the last seven years the SS Nomadic has undergone a £7m restoration programme which has seen the vessel restored to her former glory.

The SS Nomadic was built on slipway number one in Harland & Wolff Belfast alongside RMS Titanic and RMS Olympic to ferry up to 1,000 first and second class passengers to the large ships from harbours that could not accommodate the bigger liners. It was launched on 25 April 1911 and was originally used to transport passengers from the port of Cherbourg to the Titanic for the liner's ill-fated maiden voyage.

With the contribution and support of a number of different agencies and institutions, including the PEACE III Programme, the vessel was restored and is now permanently moored at Hamilton Dock adjacent to the Titanic Belfast exhibition centre. From a recent past that includes serving as a boat-restaurant in Paris and lying idle in a harbour in Normandy, the SS Nomadic will once again contribute

to enhancing the Titanic experience, with visitors being able to walk on the same decks as the original passengers. It is a unique link and window into the past which will also highlight the shared history of Belfast and the role played by the shipyard.

Lorraine McCourt, Director of JTS at the Special EU Programmes Body said: "The SEUPB is delighted to be able to support this project under the European Union's PEACE III Programme. The restored SS Nomadic will become a cross-community space, where visitors will be able to appreciate the history of the ship-building industry in Northern Ireland."

The seven year restoration project combined three elements including the Pumphouse, Hamilton Dock and the SS Nomadic where a series of audio visual presentations trace the history of the ship, introducing different characters from the ship's past and providing insight into what it would have been like to be a passenger or crew member. The project was supported by a number of organisations including the Northern Ireland Executive, Heritage Lottery Fund, SEUPB, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Ulster Garden Villages, Belfast City Council, Titanic Quarter and Belfast Harbour.

Further information on the restoration of the ship and on how to book visits is available at www.nomadicbelfast.com.



View of the SS Nomadic, in its berth at Hamilton Dock behind the Odyssey.

PROJECT NEWS...

Innovation Growth Centre Opens in Omagh

PROJECT NEWS

The new £1.8 million Innovation Growth Centre at Omagh Enterprise Company (OEC) was officially opened at the end of May by Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Arlene Foster, MLA.

The new high-tech facility forms an integral part of the Irish Central Border Area Network's (ICBAN) Innovation Enterprise Programme (IEP) which has received over £2m of financial assistance from the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme. The IEP is a cross-border initiative led by Omagh District Council in partnership with

Omagh Enterprise Company, Leitrim County Council, Leitrim County Enterprise Board and Leitrim County Enterprise Fund.

The Innovation Growth Centre will provide a technology-focused business environment that will support businesses wishing to locate to the Omagh area, or businesses already located in the area, which have a particular focus on innovation, growth and technology-related activities. It also has the potential to create around 200 new jobs for the area.

The new Centre is the first of

two to be constructed through the Innovative Enterprise Programme. A 7,500 sq. ft state-of-the-art Technology Enterprise Centre is under construction in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim, and will be completed within the next few months. The new centre in Leitrim will provide a purpose built, technology-focused business environment for 14 new and expanding businesses and has the potential to create up to 70 new jobs for the area.

For further information contact Roisin Pearson on roisinp@icban.com



Minister Foster at the opening of the new Innovation Growth Centre in Omagh, with representatives from Omagh District Council and Omagh Enterprise Company.

Life Sciences' Businesses to Branch Out

A dynamic project which aims to help local businesses gain the skills and expertise to work with and supply global and home grown Life Science companies has been awarded €0.5 million worth of EU funding.



Michael Caulfield, CEO Intelesens and Peter Donnelly, CEO BioBusiness, with an innovative medical tool.

Led by Craigavon Borough Council in partnership with East Border Region and BioBusiness Ltd, the 'Life Sciences Supply Chain' project will establish a cluster of micro, small and medium sized businesses and provide them with the capability and expertise they need to service the many needs of major Life Sciences companies.

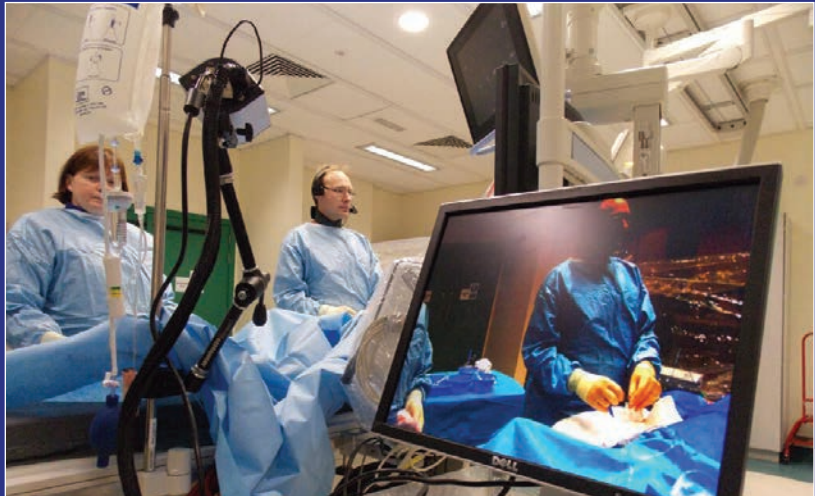
their business to access new opportunities and markets, gain accreditations required by the sector as well as develop strategies to conform to regulations needed to purchase particular products or services.

will work closely with major Life Sciences' companies to ensure they receive opportunities to bid for contracts and sell services globally within the sector.

Successful participants will be added to a preferred supplier list and the project

For more information please contact Louise Cushnahan, Life Sciences Project Manager on 028 3831 2408 or louise.cushnahan@craigavon.gov.uk

In the current economic climate, many owner-managers are exploring new market sectors – particularly those that have been identified as growth industries – including the Life Sciences' sector. Currently the major Life Sciences' companies operating in the area import their services and products, but this project will give local businesses the capabilities to become the suppliers of choice instead.



A live heart stent operation which was "beamed" from Craigavon Area Hospital to Craigavon Civic Centre to an audience of business and clinical representatives from the Life and Health Sciences sector.

Through this project, local businesses will gain an understanding of the Life Sciences sector, develop

PROJECT NEWS...

Real Life Interview

– A Legacy of Peace

REAL LIFE INTERVIEWS

A few months ago, an excited council officer landed at Bobbie Forrest's door at his house in Limavady, to make sure he signed up for the 'Messines Experience and Shared History' project, which the North East Partnership (NEP) was running with the help of PEACE III funding.

Retired builder Bobbie Forrest had contacted the council and mentioned his previous involvement in the construction of a Peace Tower in Flanders in the 1990s. The project team was so excited at the possibility of having someone with Bobbie's experience involved in the project, that they did not want

The Round Tower at the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Messines.



to miss the opportunity. So the project officer ended up knocking on his door to make sure he sent in an application.

The 73-year-old former tradesman had been working on the new Causeway Hospital in Coleraine, at the end of the 1990s when he was asked if he would like to take part in a team that was going over to Belgium to build a peace tower to celebrate the joint efforts of the 36th Ulster Division and Redmondites, in the First World War.

"When he asked me if I wanted to do it, my response was 'Try to stop me!' I immediately wanted to take part because of what it meant and because of my own personal connection to the war," Bobbie explained.

"My father had fought in the war. He enlisted in 1916, at the age of 17, leaving behind his grandmother and aunt. My father had had a difficult life and those two women were all he had. He was wounded in the war a few times and when he finally returned home, he found out that both women had died of the Spanish Flu a few months earlier. He had been too late!"

"Can you imagine how this young man would have felt,

having been through the horrors of the First World War, to come back home to find out he was all alone in the world? Knowing this really endeared me to my father and made it easier for me to understand him and the fact that despite being a good father, he had taken to drink. Every time I asked him about the war he got teary eyed. He told me not to ask him about it."

This personal connection meant that Bobbie would have a very emotional link to the tower and the whole project, as he confessed: "This tower was like my own child. I feel such a strong bond to it and it had such an impact in my otherwise mundane life that I still get incredibly emotional today just talking about it."

Bobbie worked on the tower for nearly six months with a team of six other builders and several labourers, from a cross-community background. The tower was dedicated at a royal ceremony attended by Queen Elizabeth II, President Mary McAleese and King Albert II of Belgium, in November 1998, only a few years after the signature of the Good Friday Agreement.

Located on the Island of Ireland Peace Park, in Messines, the

"When he asked me if I wanted to do it, my response was 'Try to stop me!' I immediately wanted to take part because of what it meant and because of my own personal connection to the war."

tower is a replica of an Irish 'Round Tower' and central feature of the park.

Bobbie had made life-long friends during his time in Belgium and had been over to visit several times. However, he rejoiced at the opportunity to share his story and experience with his townspeople.

"What made me participate in the Messines and Shared History project was the fact that it had a mixed group with people of different backgrounds, trying to understand what had brought unionists and nationalists together during the First World War, and how their lives had been linked. It brought back so many memories and it was great to once again be part of something that had such wonderful camaraderie", he concluded.

Bobbie Forrest next to the town's memorial to local men who fought and died in the First World War.

Construction Underway at Glen Community Complex

Following the recent appointment of building contractor, Glasgiven Contracts, the construction of a new purpose built community resource centre at the site of the former Colin Glen Bacon Factory at Suffolk Road is now underway. The steel structure of the building is now being erected on site and completion is expected by the end of 2013.

The new Glen Community Complex resource centre will house much needed community support services which include crèche facilities, an after school club, counselling, education and training, family support and youth services. The building will also include a large multi-functional hall which

can be used for many purposes including sports, drama and, concerts, as well as three shop units.

The total cost of the project is estimated at £4.5m with Atlantic Philanthropies contributing £0.5m in addition to the £4m from the EU. Much of the black stone which was a feature of the former mill will be reused in the new building.

For further information contact Gerry Kelly at g.kelly@apexhousing.org

Foyle Marina Wins Tourism Award

The INTERREG IVA funded Foyle Marina won the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce business award



Receiving the award are John Pollock CEO, Gillian Simpson, Leanne Thompson, Andy Sides

for Best Tourism Initiative. This award “is specifically aimed at recognising an initiative which directly increases visitor numbers to the city”. The judges looked for initiatives or projects where organisations have worked to expand or improve the way the city cares for its visitors.

This initiative is part of the Marine Tourism and Angling Development project, led by the Loughs Agency and funded by the SEUPB under the EU’s INTERREG IVA Programme. The overall aim of this project is to develop and promote marine tourism, water based leisure activity, angling tourism and recreational angling in the Foyle and Carlingford areas.

Rotary Peace Conference

The SEUPB recently supported a major conference on peace



Minister McCausland on a visit to the site of the former Colin Glen Bacon Factory at Suffolk Road to see how the works have been progressing, accompanied by Gerry Kelly, Apex Housing, and John McCandless, SEUPB.

building co-ordinated by the Rotary Club of Londonderry in association with International Conflict Research Institute (INCORE).

The three day event took place in May at the Millennium Forum in Derry-Londonderry. Attracting a broad international audience the event allowed the SEUPB to highlight the work of the PEACE Programme, since its inception in 1995.

The 'Theatre of Witness' and 'ICAN' projects, which operate out of the Playhouse Theatre in Derry were invited to give overview presentations of their work.

The projects were represented by Theatre Director Teya Sepinuck (Theatre of Witness) and Elaine Forde (ICAN). Both women outlined the work of their projects in terms of peace and reconciliation and also, under ICAN, positive outreach with young people within the local area.

The conference included presentations from other experienced peace builders including Roelf Mayer, who played a prominent role in the negotiations to end apartheid in South Africa.

'Something for Everyone'

The idyllic setting of the Lough Erne Resort in Enniskillen was used to launch the 'Something for Everyone' brochure by the Irish Minister for



Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport and Deputy Secretary of DETINI with representatives from ICBAN and the Border Regional Authority at the Launch of the 'Something for Everyone' brochure in the Lough Erne Golf Resort Enniskillen.

Transport, Tourism & Sport, Leo Varadkar, and the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland, David Thomson.

The 'Something for Everyone' brochure has been developed as part of ICBAN's Spatial Planning Initiative which was awarded £1,456,995 from the INTERREG IVA Programme.

It aims to promote tourism from both overseas visitors to the region and from locals who remain unaware of what neighbouring counties have to offer. It covers eleven councils in the region and has the potential to contribute significantly to the regional economy and to foster and

increase dynamism in cross-border relations.

Whether it is exhilarating mountain biking, relaxing on the Shannon Erne Waterway, experiencing adrenalin filled rally driving, enjoying the thrill of horse racing, having family fun exploring the universe at the Planetarium, following in the ancestors footsteps, or going back in time at some of the historic castles, readers of the brochure are encouraged to take part in the many activities available in the region.

You can download a copy of the 'Something for Everyone' tourism brochure from www.icban.com or by contacting roisin@icban.com.

A 'Sensonic' Event

Included in the UK City of Culture programme, the Sensory Engagement Project organised a very special 'Sensonic' concert featuring world-renowned Dame Evelyn Glennie and a range of acts from people with sensory impairment.

The event also marked the closure of the project, after three years of activity, and the celebration of its achievements. Before the evening concert, there was a conference which highlighted the progress achieved to date and some of the challenges that still remain in promoting inclusiveness of people with

sensory impairment. One of the speakers was Mark Pollock, the first blind man to reach the South Pole, who talked about overcoming challenges and achieving one's goals.

The Sensory Engagement Project was awarded £1,886,037 under the INTERREG IVA Programme with the objective of increasing access to services for those with a sensory impairment in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. This initiative involved a partnership of four organisations (RNIB, RNID, NCBI and DeafHear) coming together to actively address issues such as accessibility to services

for people with sensory impairment and social inclusion.

Through the Sensory Engagement Project, over 500 people with sensory impairment have developed their self confidence and a diverse range of skills, including IT, sailing, mountain climbing, horticulture and creative performance.

Participants have overcome physical and emotional challenges through the programme. As part of the initiative, 15 blind and partially sighted people climbed Ben Nevis, the highest peak in the UK. Participants in the project also put on two packed performances of 'Sensability' at The Playhouse in Derry/Londonderry, writing all their own material.

'Doing it Differently'

Over 400 people with disabilities have been given the opportunity to show others in society how they can go about living their lives in a full and fulfilling manner, albeit 'doing it differently'.

These people have been involved in the CAWT Citizenship for People with Disabilities project, which aims to promote the social inclusion of people with disabilities. Many of these participants were present at the event 'Doing it Differently - Showcasing Best Practice Towards the Inclusion of



Dame Evelyn Glennie performs at the Sensonic Event in Derry/Londonderry. Photo: Michael Cooper.

People with Disabilities', recently organised in Letterkenny.

The purpose of the event was to celebrate the project's achievements and to illustrate how the CAWT Citizenship for People with Disabilities Project has done things differently. The event provided an opportunity to highlight the impact of the 'Day Opportunities Service' on the lives of people with disabilities who live in the border region.

The CAWT Citizenship for People with Disabilities project is part of the overarching programme 'Putting Patients, Clients and Families First' funded by the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme and delivered by CAWT (Co-operation and Working Together).

With a total budget available of over £2 million, this project works with a total of nine community and voluntary groups to deliver two initiatives: the 'Day Opportunities Services' and the 'Community Awareness Programme'.

SEUPB Supports Major Enterprise Event

The SEUPB supported this year's annual EBN (European Business Network) conference at the Millennium Forum in Derry-Londonderry, which ran from 29-31 May. Attracting

around 450 delegates from across Europe the event featured a number of high profile business speakers including Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak and Sir Tim Smit KBE, known for his work in creating the Eden Project.

Offering the SEUPB the opportunity to showcase the extensive amount of enterprise development support that has been awarded under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, the conference was attended by business professionals and entrepreneurs from across Europe.

The Northern Ireland Business and Innovation or (NORIBIC) was the chief organiser of the event with sponsorship provided by the SEUPB, alongside other private and public sector based organisations.

Based along three central themes including Digital, Social and Cultural Innovation the event explored key advances and opportunities within each sector and highlighted some of the local entrepreneurial talent that is already making headway within these disciplines.

A large exhibition space with over 40 separate exhibitors dominated the floor of the Millennium Forum.

These exhibitors included REN-NET, which has received over €390,000 worth of assistance from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme. Designed

to establish a network of businesses seeking to become actively involved in the green economy or renewable energy sector the cross-border project used the conference to help build up its membership.

Exhibition space was also secured for two other EU funded projects called 'TG4NP' and 'CINERGY' which have both received assistance under the Northern Periphery Programme.

'TG4NP' or the Tourist Guide for Northern Periphery is an international research focused project designed to enhance the tourist potential of regions on a cross-border basis.

The Centre of Media Research at the University of Ulster has developed a new 'History Space' app. By utilising augmented reality and geo-location technology the app allows the user to learn more about the history of a specific tourist destination simply by being within the immediate locale.

'CINERGY' on the other hand aims to develop and grow rural economies through profitable collaborations between traditional and creative industries based within Northern Ireland, Finland and Sweden.

Going Local for Energy Efficiency

PROJECT NEWS

The NEES (Natural Energy Efficiency and Sustainability) Project is funded by the Northern Periphery Programme (NPP). Over a three-year period, it will identify and promote products and services which aim to improve energy efficiency in existing domestic buildings by making use of renewable or recycled materials and services based on natural processes available in the region.

These products and services should have the potential for being mainstreamed and

commercially disseminated within and outside the region. The NEES Programme began as an idea developed by the Cork Centre for Architectural Education (CCAIE). The CCAIE entered into partnership with seven social enterprises and academic and research agencies across Europe and secured funding from the NPP for the development of the three-year project. It seeks to address the lack of research and development of products and services based on natural products and processes.

To date, the investment focus has been on the commercial

development of high-tech solutions for energy efficiency, including chemical and industrially manufactured products and processes. An excellent example of the NEES approach in practice is the recent Drumalla House project in Carnlough, Co. Antrim, in Northern Ireland, developed by the Oaklee Home Group in partnership with the University of Ulster. The aim of this initiative was to design and build a new social housing development of 11 homes, to achieve Level 4 of The Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) using renewable materials as an alternative



Participants in the project: Norry McBride, Stuart Thompson, Elaine Ramsey and Derek Bond.

Inter-regional and Transnational Programmes

to traditional forms of construction. The fabric of the scheme uses timber frame construction with a hempcrete (formed from the hemp plant in combination with hydraulic lime) outer skin in place of concrete. The CO² absorbed in the growing of hemp more than offsets the CO² produced in the manufacture of the binder, and use of the product will have reduced the embodied carbon dioxide in the construction of the houses by almost 40%.

This initiative also aims to assess the validity of this alternative building type in terms of feasibility for future developments, along with examining energy consumption and considering tenant attitudes.

University of Ulster is one of eight main partners in the NEES project, which has a further 18 associate partners. The Lead Partner is the Cork Centre for Architectural Education and other partners include Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland, Umea University in Sweden, the Arctic Technology Centre in Greenland and South Kerry Development Partnership, Claremorris Irish Centre for Housing and Northside Enterprise Centre in Cork. Further information available on <http://neesonline.org/>



INTERREG IVB Transnational Update – Preparing for 2014 -2020

Programme planning is well underway for the new INTERREG IVB and IVC transnational and interregional programmes. For 2014 – 2020, Northern Ireland will be eligible to participate in the same programmes as in the current period. These are the three INTERREG IVB programmes: the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, the North West Europe Programme, the Atlantic Area Programme as well as the INTERREG IVC programme.

In order to celebrate the successes of the current programmes and to highlight the plans for the new programmes, a number of events are planned.

The Northern Periphery Programme will host an Annual Conference in Skelleftea , Sweden on 19 September 2013.

It will be a great opportunity to meet and exchange the views about the NPP in the current period 2007-2013 and hear the latest news on the new development of the priority themes for the new Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme(NPA) 2014-2020. A formal announcement followed by an invitation with an agenda and a registration form will be available by in July.

More information is available at www.northernperiphery.eu. To discover the new vision for the North West Europe Programme in 2014-2020 and to meet potential partners for the next programming period you should attend the Annual Event 2013 which will be held in Roubaix, France.

It will be great opportunity to talk about the project ideas and find future partners. The agenda and registration will be available soon in www.nweurope.eu.

PROJECT NEWS...

First Fab Labs Open in NI

Ashton Community Trust (Belfast) and the Nerve Centre (Derry/Londonderry) have jointly launched the first Fab Labs in Northern Ireland.

The globally successful Fab Lab concept was originally set up by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to inspire people and entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into new products and prototypes by giving them access to a range of advanced digital design and manufacturing technologies.

Funded by the PEACE III Programme, the two Northern

Ireland Fab Labs are the first of their kind in the region and will offer support on a cross-community basis to local people, entrepreneurs, students, artists and small businesses. They are also open to anyone who wants to create something totally unique.

Junior Ministers Jonathan Bell MLA and Jennifer McCann MLA visited the Fab Lab in Belfast to see what it has to offer. Visitors can get their hands on manufacturing technology from precision laser cutters and 3D printers to electronic circuit fabrication equipment. Using this

technology, almost anyone can create items to suit local or personal needs in a way that would not be practical or economical for mass production.

To date, thousands of small manufacturers, inventors, schools and community groups worldwide have used Fab Labs' resources resulting in a wide range of products having been successfully conceived, developed and prototyped around the world.

These two new facilities join the worldwide Fab Lab Network of over 90 labs which includes Manchester and Glasgow. There are also plans for a future Fab Lab in Cardiff.

Star of the Sea pupils Ciara Benson (left) and Aoife Major were among the first visitors to Fab Lab in Belfast. Picture by Brian Morrison.



Welcoming the project Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body, said: "This is a truly innovative project which will encourage greater levels of positive cross-community contact and increase the capacity and employment potential for people living within deprived areas of the region."

For further information contact Adam Wallace, Fab Lab, on adam.wallace@ashtoncentre.com

Communicating the Work of the PEACE III Programme

The SEUPB was recently invited to replicate elements of the major peace conference it was involved in at the start of the year by political representatives in both the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Oireachtas.

The Commission led event which took place in the Charlemagne Building in Brussels attracted a huge audience from across all EU Member States. Politicians from both the UK and Ireland were so impressed with what they saw that they wanted to share it with their colleagues at home.

The Assembly Committee for the Office of the First and deputy First Minister, with assistance from the SEUPB, co-ordinated an event in which all members of the Northern Ireland Assembly were invited to hear at first hand the work of three EU PEACE III funded projects.

The event took place in May and was deliberately timed to coincide with a visit from the UK Minister for State for Europe, David Lidington who was particularly impressed by what he saw.

Three separate PEACE III funded projects including



Pictured (l-r) at NI Assembly event are Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB, Rt Hon UK Minister for State for Europe, David Lidington, Theatre of Witness project Director Teya Sepinuck and Mike Nesbitt, MLA. Picture: Michael Cooper

'Theatre of Witness', 'Football for All' and 'Groundwork NI' in association with Belfast City Council spoke at the event, giving detailed accounts of their work and the impact that it is having in helping to reconcile the past and overcoming sectarian and racist attitudes across the region.

Representatives from the 'Theatre of Witness' and 'Groundwork NI' in partnership with Belfast City Council were also invited to speak at a high profile briefing organised by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The event took place in the grounds of the Battle of the Boyne museum in Drogheda

and was part of a series of information briefings for the Irish Presidency of the European Council. Over 70 EU ambassadors, from right across Europe, and their support staff were in attendance and heard at first hand the experiences of peace building and reconciliation work that is taking place across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Extremely positive feedback was given by all of those in attendance including Brian Hayes TD, the Irish Minister of State for Public Service Reform and the Office of Public Works alongside Northern Ireland Junior Minister Jennifer McCann, MLA.

EU Promotes Geo-Tourism Concept

A significant cross-border tourism project called 'Mourne, Cooley and Gullion Geo Tourism', was officially launched in June at Castlewellan, County Down.

In receipt of £1.4 million worth of EU INTERREG IVA funding the project will increase the Geo-Tourism potential of three distinct tourist destinations including the mountains of Mourne, the Cooley Peninsula and the Ring of Gullion.

Focusing on the development of the Geo-Tourism concept it will not only promote the geological landmarks of these local areas, but also their culture, aesthetics and

heritage in order to enhance domestic and overseas tourist numbers.

Speaking at the launch John Devaney, Geo-Tourism Manager said: "This is another important development in the promotion of the region and one that will help to enhance tourism potential in an area that has so much to offer."

The project brings together a unique collaboration of local players in the tourism industry including Newry and Mourne, Down and Banbridge District Councils, along with Louth County Council and the Mourne Heritage Trust.

The project differs from some of the more typical tourist initiatives in that it also includes a targeted youth engagement element aimed at local schools to give young people a better appreciation of the local landscape and their natural heritage.

It also offers Geo-Tourism training opportunities that will establish a network of dedicated conservation volunteers to help protect the environment and maintain access to sustainable tourist trails in the project areas.

For more information on the project please visit www.mournecooleygullion.com



A landscape view of the area promoted by the project. Photo courtesy NITB.

Business Export Support Programme

Businesses rely on the ability to increase their market in order to grow. Expanding into exporting markets is one of the main avenues to find new customers. Businesses located in a border area have an immediate, untapped market right on their doorstep.

However, many local companies that are looking to expand their markets need some extra support to take the first steps. The Gateways to Growth programme seeks to address this gap and provide support to such companies in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Gateways to Growth will bring together over 300 small and

medium sized enterprises (SMEs) from Donegal, Louth, Monaghan, Leitrim, Sligo and Cavan, as well as Northern Ireland, at two large scale 'Meet the Buyer' events.

The programme is aimed at SMEs from a wide range of sectors giving them the opportunity to meet and sell to potential private sector buying organizations. The initiative also focuses on developing the skills to assist in securing business in new markets.

The partnership created through the development of this project will establish a network for the businesses involved well beyond the programme finish date. Businesses participating on the programme will be

able to access a range of activities from workshops on sales and networking skills, business to business support and, most importantly, the opportunity to meet with the key decision-makers from private companies procuring goods and services at two cross-border meet the buyer events.

The programme is open to SMEs (1-250 employees) located in the border region that have an interest in developing cross-border trade. The first Meet the Buyer event took place in Northern Ireland, in June 2013. The second phase will see the Meet the Buyer event held in Ireland, in November 2013.

To apply small businesses just need to go register online at www.gatewaystogrowth.ie



Business representatives networking and exchanging ideas at one of the project events.

PROJECT NEWS...

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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