

YOUR EU!

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

INTERREG IVA Programme
All-Island Tourism
Trail Launch

PEACE III Programme
'Our World' Youth Project

Real Life Interview
Upstate Youth Ensemble

News & Info
Making the Most of
Gaelic Languages



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 – 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



**Northern Ireland
Executive**
www.northernireland.gov.uk



Welcome

WELCOME

Project News

- Page 4 'Honeycomb' - Creative Works Launch
- Page 5 CASA, Promoting the Ring of Gullion
- Page 6 'Our World' Youth Project
- Page 7 All-Island Tourism Trail Launch

Real Life Interview

- Page 8-9 Upstate Youth Ensemble

News & Info

- Page 10 Making the Most of our Gaelic Languages / SEUPB Social Media
- Page 11 Young Artwork at World Police & Fire Games 2013
- Page 12 & 13 Harnessing Creativity
- Page 14 Sligo Rural Peace Project

Project News

- Page 15 New Peace Scout Badge
- Page 16 Young People Driving Peace Forward
- Page 17 Children on Quest to Save Red Squirrel
- Page 18 Celebrating ConneXions
- Page 19 How to Get ProFit!

YOUR EU!

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.

Your EU! ISSN:1750-6700 Published by the Special EU Programmes Body www.seupb.eu
To submit ideas, material and photographs for the next issue, please e-mail communications@seupb.eu
For additional copies of Your EU! or to be added to the database to receive an electronic copy contact us by e-mail at communications@seupb.eu

Editorial and Production Management:

John McCandless
Copy Writing: John McCandless

Photography: www.michaelcooper.com
Design: www.l-s-d.com
This magazine is printed by Print Library.

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact SEUPB.



Foreword

Welcome to the autumn edition of Your EU!

This edition focuses on some of the most recent projects to be launched under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme and also highlights some of the great work that is being delivered under PEACE III.

Recent project launches for INTERREG IVA include a new tourism initiative that will create a unique all-Island lighthouse tourist trail and the 'Honeycomb-Creative Works' project, which will enhance the region's Creative Industries sector. Both projects are just establishing themselves, but upon completion will have a positive impact upon our economy, for many years to come.

In this edition, we also catch-up with a number of different projects and initiatives supported under the EU's PEACE III Programme. These include the 'ConneXions' project which provides social inclusion and advocacy support for disabled people, living on both sides of the Border.

We also take a look at a youth focused project called 'Our World' which has enabled

over 500 schoolchildren to create new and meaningful relationships with other young people from different communities, on a cross-border basis.

This type of social integration work is also taking place within Sligo, through the 'Rural Peace Project', which has encouraged many young, as well as elderly people, from isolated rural communities to create lasting friendships with people from different social, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

As part of our newly launched social media strategy we have created a Facebook page and a Twitter account to help keep you informed about the programmes we manage and any new developments within the SEUPB. Please follow us on these platforms and pass on any suggested content that you may have to the Communications Team.

Work on the development of the new programmes is continuing well. It is anticipated that the main consultation process will be concluded towards the end of 2013, with draft Operational Programmes, ready for review by representatives of the UK



and Irish Member States in 2014. The actual delivery of the programmes is anticipated to begin later in that year, pending final budget approval by the European Commission.

As always, I warmly welcome your thoughts and feedback on any of the content or issues raised in this edition.

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive, SEUPB

FOREWORD...

Enhancing Regional Creativity

A new £3.5 million, EU INTERREG IVA, funded project that will develop the region's Creative Industries sector was launched on 12 September, during CultureTECH week (9-15 September) in Derry-Londonderry.

Called 'Honeycomb-Creative Works' the project is being delivered by the University of Ulster in partnership with the Dundalk Institute of Technology, the Letterkenny Institute of Technology and a number of other partners involved in the Creative Industries sector.

Designed to address the economic, social and cultural needs of this rapidly evolving business sector, match funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland, the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Investment

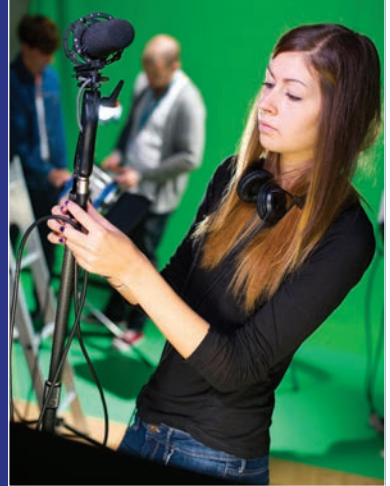
in Ireland and the Scottish Executive.

Speaking at the project launch, Eddie Friel, Head of Business Development in the University of Ulster's Office of Innovation who will be directing the project, said:

"The Honeycomb-Creative Works programme has been developed to serve the needs of companies and practitioners in the Digital Content sector to help them become more competitive in the global marketplace."

"The programme will provide skills enhancement and a wide-range of additional support for individuals and businesses in the film and broadcast, animation; gaming; interactive media and music technologies through research, networking, skills development and project finance," he continued.

Throughout its life-time the



Many different Creative Industries businesses will benefit from the project, on a cross-border basis.

project will facilitate a number of different workshops, events and conferences, designed to share information and best practice within the Creative Industries sector, on a cross-border basis.

It will also create a 'Skills Development Forum' to equip aspiring creative industry professionals with the knowledge they need to take advantage of all that the sector has to offer.

Welcoming the project, Lorraine McCourt, Director with the SEUPB, said: "This is a truly innovative initiative which will build upon the wealth of natural home-grown talent and expertise that exists within the region's native Creative Industries sector.



EU Funding to Promote 'Ring of Gullion'

Visitors to the Ring of Gullion are now able to enjoy the fascinating landscape in this part of the country with access to brand new facilities. The pathway on Slieve Gullion has been restored providing safe access for walkers, of all abilities, to reach the peak of the mountain and take in the surrounding beauty.

As part of this restoration work a brand new playpark is also being installed at Slieve Gullion Forest Park. This Family Adventure facility includes an amphitheatre, a

multi-user games facility and an adult fitness trail. Since the development work has been undertaken, visitor numbers have increased, which has had a positive knock-on effect for local businesses in the surrounding area.

The work is part of a £1.4 million EU INTERREG IVA funded project to develop the natural resources of the region as a civic amenity for local people. Called the CASA (or Castleblayney and South Armagh) project the initiative includes the regeneration of the space around Lough Muckno in

Castleblayney.

The economic return on this investment is already proving beneficial to the local area but the full potential of the project will not be realised until the children's playpark is completed.

The final element of the project focuses on enterprise development, with the creation of seven new enterprise units consisting of 500 sq ft modern office space in Ballybay in County Monaghan.

Overall the CASA project has been an important catalyst for further development in the area and it is hoped that this effort will lead to the extension of the Slieve Gullion Pathway and development of buildings around Lough Muckno.

The CASA project partners include Newry & Mourne District Council, Monaghan County Council, Monaghan County Enterprise Fund and Castleblayney Town Council.

For more information on the initiative contact Marian O'Rourke at Newry & Mourne District Council via e-mail: marian.orourke@newryandmourne.gov.uk

Restored pathway providing safe access for walkers.



'Our World' Youth Project

Over the past two years, almost 500 pupils from 21 different schools, on both sides of the border, have taken part in a programme of activities designed to bring them into contact with different cultures and traditions.

The objective of the 'Our World' project is to promote understanding between different communities, by introducing schoolchildren to a variety of situations which challenge their attitudes towards people from different religious and cultural backgrounds.

Launched in 2012 the 'Our World' project is delivered by Junior Achievement and Young Enterprise Northern Ireland, with funding provided by the European Union's PEACE III Programme.



During module 3 of the programme, pupils planned an inclusive event in their community. Using fabric markers and t-shirts they worked together to design their own unique logo to promote the event.

The project provides a safe, supportive environment where primary school students explore issues such as diversity, conflict and sectarianism. By June 2014 it will have reached over 1,500 students aged between 10 and 12 years.

The 'Our World' project consists of six separate training modules, five of which are designed specifically for the participating students and the last geared towards their parents.

Through the use of activity-based, hands-on learning, the pupils and their parents gain an understanding of the importance of sensitivity and understanding when it comes to interacting with people from different communities.

Highlighting the importance of this project for all of the participating schools, Irene Gibson, Principal at Raphoe Central National School, in Donegal, said:

“Children are encouraged and helped to understand themselves, to relate to others and maintain healthy patterns of behaviour. This contributes to preparing the children for active and responsible citizenship in the wider sense – within the local, national, European and global community.”

For further information on the project contact Mairead Hamill at mhamill@jai.ie or visit www.juniorachievement.ie



Children taking part in module 5 of the programme, between May and June 2013.

EU Shines a Light on New All-Island Lighthouse Trail

September saw the launch of a new all-Island tourism initiative, which will transform five operational lighthouses based in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland, into highly desirable tourist destinations.

Supported with over €2.5 million worth of assistance, from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, the project is being delivered by the Commissioners for Irish Lights (CIL). It will also support up to 60 construction jobs, during the initial refurbishment stage and will help create 10 full-time jobs, upon completion.

The project has received match-funding from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in Ireland.

Speaking at the project launch on the 4 September at Blackhead Lighthouse in County Antrim, the Irish Minister for Tourism Leo Varadkar T.D. said: "The lighthouses of the island of Ireland were often the last specks of light, emigrants from these shores saw as they departed for their new lives around the world. In this, the

year of the Gathering, I think it is especially fitting that these beautiful structures play a new role welcoming visitors."

Commenting on the project, Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB, said: "This initiative represents a niche form of rural tourism that will help broaden out the tourism season of the entire region. In helping to preserve an important part of our cultural heritage, the project will also create a lasting legacy that will attract many new tourists for many years to come."

A number of partners are involved in the delivery of the project, including the Irish Landmark Trust, Down District Council, Carrickfergus Borough Council and Donegal County Council.

Pictured (r-l) at the official launch of the multi-million pound EU funded All-Island Tourism Trail project are Tourism Minister Arlene Foster, Irish Minister for Tourism Leo Varadkar, Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB and Chief Executive of the Commissioners for Irish Lights Yvonne Shields at Blackhead Lighthouse, Whitehead.



The Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds (RSPB) is also working alongside the CIL to develop an enhanced visitor facility for seabird watching at the Rathlin West Lighthouse, on Rathlin Island.

For more information on the project go to <http://commissionersofirishlights.com>

PROJECT NEWS...

Real Life Interview – A 'Shared' Experience with Upstate Youth

Louth County Peace Partnership recently funded a highly creative youth drama project delivered by the 'Upstate Youth Ensemble'.

Under the project local schoolchildren were asked to produce a bespoke, theatre based drama production, in collaboration with artistic director Stephen Murray and project facilitator Dee Burke. Over the course of one week the young people were asked to explore what a 'shared society' means to them and to discuss issues relating to racism and sectarianism.

This intensive, week long work schedule, culminated in a 40 minute performance which took place in Dundalk Town Hall and the Barbican in Drogheda, to an audience of around 200 people. Using

mainly physical theatre combined with abstract sketches, the performances were specifically designed to make a real and lasting impact.

Talking about the methods used in the creation of the drama production Declan Mallon, Director of the 'Upstate Theatre' project, said:

"One of the reasons we developed this ensemble was to try and encourage teenagers and young adults, who haven't previously participated in arts based projects, to take part in something a bit different.

"At first they were a bit taken aback by the very concept of physical theatre, but they

adapted to it quickly and made it their own."

"The production focused on attitudes towards tolerance within today's increasingly diverse society.

"Although many of the young people said that they had not personally experienced racism or sectarianism in their daily lives, they did talk about a 'low-fi' form of social prejudice, which can be found in every section of society.

"They also talked about the differences between their views of cultural difference in comparison to those held by older generations," continued Declan.

At the start of every performance the audience were asked to give over their mobile phone numbers before

Stephen Murray helps pull the production together with the young participants from County Louth.



“This was a great way for the young people to reach out directly to every member of the audience and give them something to think about when the performance was over.”

they were switched off. When the performance was completed each audience member received a text created by the young people.

“This was a great way for the young people to reach out directly to every member of the audience and give them something to think about,” said Declan.

“Different messages were sent out at the end of each performance but were based along the lines of ‘we have shared this with you, now you can share it with others,’” he continued.

The Upstate Youth Ensemble includes youth performers Loran McAllister, Steven Jimenez, Lyndsey Keating, Catriona Quigley, Anastasia Metluka, Amber Duffy, Andy Gallagher, Leah Rossiter, Victoria Ugwuja and Mark Hughes.

For more information on the work of Upstate Theatre visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/upstatetheatre.



The young people developed the performance over the course of just one intensive week.



The physical theatre based performance used abstract sketches to help convey the thoughts and feelings of the young people.

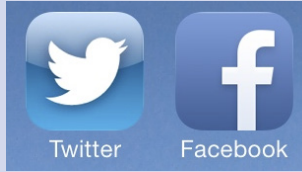
Making the most of our Gaelic Languages

A new project which seeks to maximise business collaboration between Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland through the use of language, specifically Gàidhlig (Scottish Gaelic) and Gaeilge (Irish Gaelic) has secured approximately £1 million in funding through the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme.

Called 'Connect G' the project provides support to enterprises who want to grow their businesses, using these languages as a competitive asset. The initiative involves three partners based within the INTERREG IVA Programme's three jurisdictions including Sabhal Mòr Ostaig for Scotland; Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiach for Northern Ireland; and Údáras na Gaeltachta for Ireland.

Lasting two years the project will primarily provide support to tourism, media and social enterprises. Upon its conclusion the various elements of 'ConnectG' will be evaluated and this evaluation will underpin the development of a strategy for future collaboration between public sector agencies across the three jurisdictions. It is anticipated that this strategy will then deliver greater efficiency and effectiveness in future language support.

SEUPB Launch Social Media Presence



Following approval from its Sponsor Departments the SEUPB has created a Facebook page (Special EU Programmes Body – SEUPB) and opened a Twitter Account (@SEUPB).

Both of these platforms will be used to showcase the excellent project work which is being delivered, on a daily basis, by projects supported under the EU's PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes.

Managed during working hours, the SEUPB's communications team would invite all projects and initiatives to 'follow' the Body and provide fresh and lively programme related content that can be viewed by others.

For more information on the SEUPB's social media policy email: communications@seupb.eu

Peace Funded Youth Artwork Highlights Diversity

Over 400 local children unveiled a unique piece of artwork to help raise awareness of cultural diversity to competitors taking part in the recent World Police and Fire Games. The art installation was displayed in the Aurora Aquatic Leisure Centre and the Bangor Sportsplex at Ballykillaire.

Created by children aged between 5 and 12 years old the project was supported by the North Down Borough Council PEACE III Partnership.



The artwork was based on the children's interpretations of diversity and difference. Following the final exhibition of the artwork, each individual piece will be returned to the children involved in the project.

Sligo Rural Peace Project

A PEACE III funded project, based in Sligo, is making real progress in promoting greater levels of peace and reconciliation within rural communities. Co-ordinated by the Sligo LEADER Partnership Company Ltd, the project facilitates a number of different activities and events specifically designed to bring people from different communities and backgrounds together.

The elderly, isolated farmers, young people and members of the local Protestant community are actively encourage to take part in the project and join in with various peace building activities. To date, these activities have included cross-border surfing competitions for young people, tea dances for the elderly and planned rural diversification visits for local farmers to the Sligo coast.

Recently the project helped co-ordinate a 'musical exchange' whereby the Sligo Gospel Choir hosted the North West Gospel Choir and plans are already underway for a return visit to Derry-Londonderry, as part of the City of Culture 2013 celebrations.

Under the project a group of young people visited the Apprentice Boys of Derry to find out more about their

traditions, heritage and culture. Young farmers from Ulster also visited Sligo Macra na Feirme to explore and learn about different farming techniques on the Sligo coast, including a visit to the Voya Seaweed Baths and Coney Island Shellfish farm.

A 'Contemporary Protestant Life' initiative has been set up under the project as well and has already established links with the Derrygonnelly cross-community project based in County Fermanagh.

Finally the Mullaghmore Peace Garden is being re-developed with support from the project.

For further information on the Sligo Rural Peace Project contact Jane Golden via e-mail: jgolden@sligoleader.com



Farmers from Sligo Macra na Feirme and the Young Farmers of Ulster visit the Coney Island Shellfish Farm, Strandhill, Co. Sligo as part of the Sligo LEADER Partnership Rural PEACE III Project.

Harnessing the Power of Creative Thought

A collective of artists and creative directors descended on Leitrim from the 20-27 September as part of a week-long series of Creative Industry Showcase events, in what could become a model of best practice in Europe.

The events which were held under the brand name of 'Expanded Territories' marked the next phase of the 'Harnessing Creativity' project, which has received €799,880 through the European Union's INTERREG IVA programme.

Bringing together creative experts from the fields of architecture, film, design and photography the project aims to exploit the wealth of artistic talent that exists in Tyrone, Fermanagh and Leitrim in order to enhance the capabilities of over 200 creative businesses throughout the region.

Commenting on the initiative, Project Manager, Anna Marie O'Rourke, said: "Through the project we are attempting to build capacity in creative industries by offering mentoring, training and business development support. In many cases we are also offering artists the

opportunity to showcase their work for the very first time".

Speakers during the week-long series of events included Brendan Byrne, organiser of 'Offset', one of Europe's largest design-centred conferences, which sells out to audiences in the Bord Gia Energy theatre venue every year.

The following three creative industry practitioners all took part in the events and have been able to avail of the support and expertise offered under the 'Harnessing Creativity' project.

Chris Allen, a chartered accountant, has used his natural interest in computer programming to develop skills in projection mapping, which uses a 3-dimensional canvas to project a combination of images, video and computer animation.

Speaking during the exhibition, Chris said: "I already have a strong interest in computer animation and was interested in how this could be developed from producing straightforward representations of my own architectural work into something more innovative.

"Projection work is still a relatively new concept with few producers in the UK. I believe however that there are many commercial opportunities that could be exploited through the use of projection mapping such as advertising, tourism and commercial events or exhibitions."



Chris Allen

Owner of a successful award-winning photography business **Sarah Fyffe**, of 'Sarah Fyffe Photography,' was able to use the 'Harnessing Creativity' events as an opportunity to network with other people working in her field.

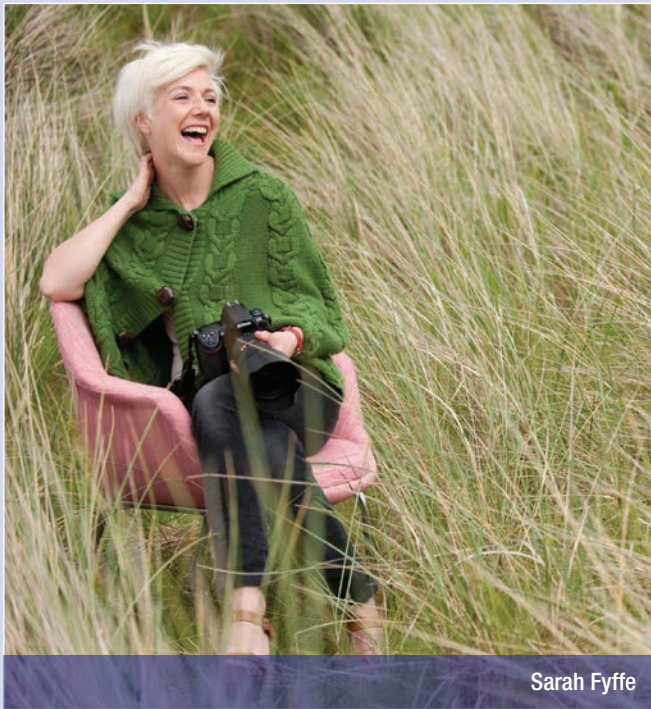
Commenting on the week-long series of events, she said: “The Expanded Territories showcase has helped me to concentrate on being creative by meeting with other like-minded people to share ideas and skills. It is great to be back at the development stage of what, I consider to be, a very exciting concept.”

Creative all-rounder and celebrated artist **Djeribi**, who also set-up her own publishing house called ‘Mermaid Turbulence,’ was one of the creative artists who exhibited at the Expanding Territories showcase event. Her ‘Rebound Industries’ project, which crafts branded goods from recycled waste, was showcased during the exhibition.

Speaking at the event she said; “I am so delighted to showcase my project at a week-long festival celebrating the arts in Leitrim and the surrounding counties.

“There are so many talented people around the North-West and ‘Harnessing Creativity’ has been a great opportunity to bring some of them together. I am really honoured to be able to show my project that will hopefully become a reality and create local jobs in the not-too-distant future.”

For more information log onto www.harnessingcreativity.eu or alternatively find ‘Harnessing Creativity’ on Facebook.



Sarah Fyffe



Djeribi

New Scout Badge Created in Honour of Peace Funding

PROJECT NEWS

Last year saw the launch of the EU PEACE III funded £3.2 million 'Castle Saunderson International Scout centre' in County Cavan.

In addition to attracting young people from a scouting background, the project is

also hosting visits from a wide-range of youth-based organisations and schools from across the region.

Project partners involved in the construction of the new centre included Cavan County Council, the Scouting Association for Northern Ireland and Scouting Ireland.

by the Department of Social Development in Northern Ireland and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in Ireland.

Officially opened last year by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, the impressive centre includes a new state-of-the-art indoor facility set amongst a 30-acre multi-activity camping site, capable of accommodating up to 1,000 scouts.

Match-funding for the project was provided

< The new Peace Badge, created by Scouting Ireland.



Participants who have successfully secured the new Peace Badge.

Inter-regional and Transnational Programmes

To help commemorate the support and celebrate the new centre Scouting Ireland has created a new 'Peace Badge'. Featuring the 'World Scouting's Messenger of Peace' logo, surrounded by the 12 stars of the EU flag alongside the name of new centre; the badge can only be granted to scouts who have undertaken specific peace and reconciliation activities.

Just as there are three elements to the badge, any scout wishing to receive it must take part in three distinct activities. These include taking part in peace and reconciliation training developed by Scoutlink; participating in gardening or other horticultural activities at the centre; and finally carrying out some form of public service work such as cleaning a park or volunteering at a care home.

As part of this new badge initiative over 576 scouts have successfully completed peace and reconciliation training to date; over 750 metres of forest path has been restored and 71 public service projects have been created and are in the process of completion.



PROJECT NEWS...

INTERREG IVB Transnational Update – Preparing for 2014 -2020

Programme planning is progressing well for the new INTERREG IVB and IVC Transnational and Inter-regional 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 and Arctic Programme 2014-2020 commenced a consultation on the 19 September to take

views and comments on the emerging themes for the New Programme. The on-line consultation is now underway, and we would encourage you to participate: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NPA_consultation

The NPP Programme funded 'Preparatory projects' are invited to attend a project development clinic in Reykjavik, Iceland on November 13-14, 2013. Registration for the clinic is through the following link www.surveymonkey.com/s/FRW7JJ.

North-West Europe in 2014-2020

The NWE Annual Event 2013 will be held in Roubaix, France, 14 November 2013, at which you will have the opportunity to discover and discuss the impact of the emerging themes for the North-West Europe Programme 2014-2020. To register go to www.nweurope.eu.

Young People Driving Peace Forward

Foróige's PEACE III Youth Education programme has enabled young people from Sligo and across the border to challenge racism and promote positive attitudes to cultural diversity.

The project has three different strands focusing on different elements of diversity and integration: an expansion of the PEACE Flag Award Initiative; engagement of ethnically diverse group of young people from both Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland; and strategic efforts to increase the role of young people as active citizens in Comhairle na nÓg Sligo.

The PEACE Flag Award Initiative enables schools and youth groups to embed a greater sense of tolerance and inclusion of different cultures into their community. The award was recently granted to Sligo's Summerhill College and Derry's Oakgrove College.

The Citizenship strand of Foróige's project consists of four new Citizenship groups exploring the need for understanding cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity.

In Sligo young people from Pakistan, Kurdistan, Iraq, the Philippines, Sudan, India,



Young people who participated in the Citizenship, Peace Flag, and Comhairle na nÓg projects at the opening event of Foróige's PEACE III Youth Education Programme.

Bangladesh, England, Ireland, Latvia, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, and Poland examined issues faced by ethnic minorities and explored life in Sligo from the viewpoint of migrant communities.

Another group, 'REACH Across' in Derry, explored the power of symbols to unite or divide, while Castlederg Youth Forum, Co Tyrone studied world religions.

The third strand, which supports mainstream youth organisations to build the capacity of young people as active citizens, worked to identify and address the barriers which young people from minority communities might experience when it

comes to having their voice heard. With a particular focus on Comhairle na nÓg, this part of Foróige's programme sought to increase opportunities for all young people to become more active citizens.

These creative approaches to participation and citizenship have put into practice Foróige's ethos of 'empowering youth, enriching communities' placing young people in the driving seat - exploring issues, devising solutions, and acting in solidarity with young people from all cultures, religions, and ethnicities. For further information on the project contact Martina Miller at martina.miller@foroige.ie

Children on Quest to Save Red Squirrel

PROJECT NEWS...

A group of local school children have been inspired to join the quest to save the red squirrel following an educational trip organised by the EU funded 'Action for Biodiversity' project, in partnership with Ards Borough Council and the National Trust.

Ten primary schools from across the Ards and North Down council areas visited Mount Stewart to learn more about the National Trust's red squirrel conservation project and find out how they can help protect the declining species, which is under severe threat from the invasive grey squirrel.

The children were taken on a tour of the grounds,

which is one of the last strongholds of the red squirrel in Northern Ireland, and saw how Mount Stewart is being carefully monitored by wildlife surveillance cameras to track sightings of the rare squirrel and inform biodiversity action planning.

The informative sessions were led by Jenny Ferguson, Visitor Experience Supervisor, Education at Mount Stewart, who commented:

"It is now more important than ever to take preventative action to encourage biodiversity and support ecosystem services, especially as biodiversity is linked positively to human health. The red squirrel project is one way of protecting a

declining species, whilst providing young people with the opportunity to learn more about it."

A red squirrel conservation group has recently been formed on the Ards Peninsula, which aims to raise awareness of the issues relating to the endangered species, as well as collating sightings of the animal. The initiative was part of the Action for Biodiversity project, which is led by the East Border Region and funded under the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme.

It aims to develop and successfully deliver a regional and cross-border Biodiversity Framework for the region focusing on building capacity, raising awareness and undertaking specific activities on biodiversity conservation and enhancement.

Young people learn more about the environmental conservation efforts to help protect the red squirrel.



Celebrating Positive ConneXions

The 'ConneXions' project recently celebrated the positive impact which it has made upon the lives of its participants at a special certificate award ceremony held at the Guildhall in Derry-Londonderry on the 19th September.

Making 'ConneXions that matter' is the theme of the cross-border project, which supports people with disabilities by delivering confidence boosting training events, enabling them to forge positive relationships within their local communities. Delivered by the Cedar Foundation, in partnership with the National Learning Network, the project supports people in the Donegal and Foyle areas and is in receipt of approximately £0.5 million worth of funding under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme.

Speaking at the event Lorraine McCourt, Director with the SEUPB, said: "One of the core priorities of the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme is to encourage greater levels of social cohesion on both sides of the border and in doing so enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

"The ConneXions project is a great example of this, as it has established strong social networks that have enabled people of different abilities to play an active role in their local community," she continued.

To date, the project has helped hundreds of people with disabilities to become active members of their community through a series of personal development programmes, exchange visits and other networking events.



From L-r are Joanne Barnes, ConneXions Project Manager, Alan Lesley, Cedar User Forum Chairperson (Foyle), Councillor Martin Reilly, Mayor of Derry, Councillor Ian McGarvey, Mayor of Donegal and David Cregan, ConneXions Participant (Foyle).

a commitment to supporting our service users to reach their full potential and a recognition that this can only be achieved through effective partnerships."

"The ConneXions project is an excellent example of both of these and this can be seen from the extremely positive feedback and experiences of all those who have participated in the project," he continued.

For more information about ConneXions please email: connexions@cedar-foundation.org, or visit www.cedar-foundation.org/connexions.

Speaking about the project Stephen Mathews, Chief Executive of the Cedar Foundation, said: "There are two key elements which underpin our work;

Councillor Paschal Blake, Mayor of Letterkenny and Councillor Ian McGarvey, Mayor of Donegal celebrate with ConneXions certificate recipients.



The Benefits of Getting ProFit

The University of Ulster is partnering alongside Sheffield Hallam University in a truly innovative EU initiative which aims to change people's attitudes, approach and involvement in physical exercise.

Called 'ProFit' the initiative involves partners based in four European cities including Eindhoven and Delft in the Netherlands, Kortrijk in Belgium and Sheffield in the UK.

Together these partners have created a network of 'field labs' to help promote sport but also investigate ways of monitoring the health gains that are generated by increased physical activity. The Labs themselves can take place in most environments from a public park, large office space or even a city square and involve both the young and old alike.

A product innovation competition has also been built into the project in order to stimulate the development of new ways to capture data on the positive effects that sport has on the human body and to improve sports performance.

The University of Ulster is currently heavily involved in the research element of the project and is in the process of developing new prototype 'activity' sensors. These sensors will monitor the physical changes occurring within people when they exercise with a view to attaining a better understanding of the positive benefits that it brings. Other associated ideas include a computerised football that helps players train or a mobile ice bath for athletes.

Speaking about the project Professor Eric Wallace, Director of the Sport and

Exercise Sciences Research Institute within the University of Ulster said:

"We are providing the research expertise to determine the user needs of communities who will have access to the field labs and we will evaluate their effectiveness in delivering physical activity participation objectives. We are also involved in the development of novel technologies to monitor activity patterns in the field labs."

Funded under the INTERREG IVB North West Europe programme, any successful prototype product developed under the project will be commercialised in order to make better use of technology within all types of sporting activity.

For more information on the project visit www.fieldlabs.eu

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: Joint Technical Secretariat Omagh, Tel: +44 (0) 28 8225 5750 E: omagh@seupb.eu or Belfast, Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660 E: info@seupb.eu or

The Consortium Community Relations Council European Team Tel: +44 (0) 28 9022 7500 E: european@nicrc.org.uk or Pobal, Tel: +353 (0)1 5117500 E: enquiries@pobal.ie

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: Joint Technical Secretariat, Monaghan. Tel: + 353 (0)47 77003 E: monaghan@seupb.eu or

Caroline Coleman, National Contact Point for Scotland, Scotland Europa, 150 Broomielaw, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow G2 8LU. Tel: +44 (0) 141 228 2202 E: Caroline.Coleman@scotent.co.uk

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: Helen Donaldson at the SEUPB Belfast office: Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6723 E: helen.donaldson@seupb.eu

Special EU Programmes body
info@seupb.eu
www.seupb.eu

Belfast
7th Floor,
The Clarence West Building
2 Clarence Street West
Belfast BT2 7GP
Northern Ireland
T: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660

Monaghan
M:Tek II Building
Armagh Road
Monaghan
Ireland
T: +353 (0) 477 7003

Omagh
EU House
11 Kevlin Road
Omagh BT78 1LB
Northern Ireland
+44 (0) 28 8225 5750