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SUMMER/AUTUMN
2011



Special EU Programmes Body
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects

AN UPDATE ON EUROPEAN UNION **PEACE AND INTERREG** PROGRAMMES



Freshwater Pearl Mussels
EU Funding Helps to Protect
Endangered Species

Peace Bridge
EU Commissioner Opens New
Bridge over the River Foyle

Urban Sports
New Urban Sports Dedicated Park
Opens in Belfast

Lisburn and Castlereagh
Local Partnership to Foster
Lasting Peace



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007–2013

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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 Finance 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”



Special EU Programmes Body
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Welcome to the most recent edition of Your EU! During the last few months, a number of new projects have been approved for funding under the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes, while others have been brought to successful completion.

One notable project that has been brought to completion was the Peace Bridge, the pedestrian and cycle bridge over the River Foyle in Londonderry, which was inaugurated by EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn. The opening of the bridge was the central event of a weekend of celebrations. I would like to record here a warm thank you to all of those who over the past three years were involved in this project. They have delivered an outstanding piece of architecture and a new symbol for the city, which is also a symbol of peace and reconciliation for its citizens.

As part of the weekend of activities, the SEUPB organised a topical one-day seminar on the theme of ‘Building Bridges’. The seminar brought together experts from several European countries to talk about the difference that bridges have made in transforming the social, economic and cultural landscapes of communities across Europe. Participants at the seminar heard the stories of bridges such as the Malmo-Copenhagen Bridge between Sweden and Denmark, the Mostar Bridge in Bosnia Herzegovina and the James Joyce and Samuel Beckett Bridges in Dublin and reflected on the importance and potential of the new Peace Bridge in Derry.

The Belfast Skatepark is another PEACE III project which was recently completed with the inauguration of the new Bridges Urban Sports Park in July. Urban sports enthusiasts from all ages and community backgrounds now have a dedicated and appropriately equipped space in Belfast city centre.

A number of new and exciting projects were also launched under the INTERREG IVA Programme. The ANSWER (Agriculture Need for

Sustainable Willow Effluent Recycling) project is an ambitious initiative which seeks to develop low carbon and environmentally sustainable solutions for dealing with organic waste, while simultaneously creating renewable bio-energy.



Another project with an environmental focus, the Practical Application of Freshwater Pearl Mussel Measures project, will investigate new ways of ensuring the protection of this freshwater species whose population is declining all over Europe.

The SEUPB continues to work to encourage partners in Northern Ireland to play an active role in INTERREG IVB and INTERREG IVC funded projects. In this edition of Your EU, we have a look at DAIRYMAN, an innovative initiative promoting the sharing of best practice between dairy farmers across the Northwest Europe region.

Finally, I would like to mention Europe Day. Taking place annually on 9 May, it celebrates European integration and the commitment to peace and reconciliation which lies at the heart of the European Union.

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body

A bed of freshwater pearl mussels



Protecting the Freshwater Pearl Mussel

Freshwater Pearl Mussels have lived in our rivers for thousands of years. They are slow growing, but very long-lived and can be up to 120 years old. They can grow to 14cm in length. Unfortunately, the population of this fascinating species has been in dramatic decline in recent years. The species is now endangered, and is listed in the Habitats Directive as a species whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation.

The Freshwater Pearl Mussel project, which was formally launched by the then Mayor of Donegal, Cllr Cora Harvey, in Lifford on 10 May, is a conservation initiative which aims to protect the critically endangered pearl mussel. It will do so through the development of catchment plans, the testing of innovative measures, and the preparation of guidance for a number of sectors to ensure that activities are sustainable and will not affect pearl mussel survival. It has received €2.3m in European funding under the INTERREG IVA Programme and is led by Donegal County Council in partnership with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).

The island of Ireland retains a significant proportion of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations remaining in Europe, most of it (80%) in about eight catchments. Virtually all of these populations are in decline and evidence suggests that in recent decades

juvenile mussels are failing to make it to adulthood. Unless measures are put in place to ensure successful breeding and survival of juveniles, the existing populations will become extinct as the adult mussels die off.

The pearl mussel lives in rivers and needs a high quality environment to survive. It must have clean river gravels to live in, which is especially important for the young mussels. Some activities in catchments can result in more nutrients entering and fertilising the rivers, giving rise to excessive weed growth that blankets the river bed and smothers the mussels. Other activities can release silt into the river that chokes the gravel bed, filling the spaces and smothering the mussels, especially the young ones.

County Manager Séamus Neely emphasized the 'flagship' role of this species and our responsibility in ensuring its survival along with other species like salmon, trout and otter. It is also the cornerstone of any sustainable tourism industry, and Donegal County Development Board has identified the sustainable development of tourism as a key strategic development priority.

Further information is available from the project Coordinator, Dr Tony McNally: tmcnally@donegalcoco.ie

BCC Celebrates Three Years of Local PEACE III Initiatives

Project News

Hosted by presenter, William Crawley, the 'PEACE III – Celebrate & Collaborate' event was addressed by broadcaster, comedienne and community worker, Nuala McKeever, and Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA), a former advisor to Tony Blair.

The event was organised by Belfast City Council's Good Relations Partnership and the Special EU Programmes Body and focused on the value of collaborative working and the positive experiences of community groups, voluntary sector organisations and agencies across the city. The second phase of PEACE III funding for local authorities and how Belfast might make the best use of it were also discussed at the conference.

Since the PEACE III funded Peace Action Plan was initiated in 2009, more than 12,000 people have taken part in projects which have tackled sectarianism, challenged stereotypes, and encouraged cross-community use of shared space.

The Chair of the Council's Strategic Policy and Resource Committee, Councillor Deirdre Hargey, said: "Good relations are at the heart of the council's policy-making process and our vision is for a stable, tolerant, fair and inclusive society, where individuality is respected and diversity is celebrated in an inclusive manner. Our focus is on building positive relations at a local level and each one of the projects taking part in this event has played a vital role in achieving this aim."

Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body, welcomed the exhibition saying: "Local authorities have a key role to play and are ideally positioned to promote the PEACE Programme within local communities. I am pleased to see that Belfast City Council is more committed than ever to working with

local groups to promote peace and that the many people who have made such an important contribution to our society will have the opportunity to share their stories with the city and the wider public."

"I am confident that their experience will inspire others to become engaged in the Local Peace Action Plan as it enters its second phase" he concluded.

The Council's Good Relations Partnership is responsible for managing and administering the funding available to Belfast through Priority 1.1 Building Relationships at the Local Level of the PEACE III Programme.

For further information contact Isaac May, at the BCC Good Relations Unit: mayi@belfastcity.gov.uk



Cllr Deirdre Hargey, Chair of Belfast City Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, with speaker Matthew Taylor, and host William Crawley at the 'PEACE III – Celebrate & Collaborate' conference.

Speakers at the launch event at Belfast City Hall (L-R): Dr Seamus Kennedy (CEO AFBI), Dr. Alistair McCracken (AFBI), Mr John McMillen (NIEA).

Project News



An ANSWER to How We Manage Waste

The official launch of the A.N.S.W.E.R. (Agriculture Need for Sustainable Willow Effluent Recycling) project took place in Belfast City Hall on 13 May.

Dr Alistair McCracken from the lead partner, the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) explained that the objective of the project is “to establish sites irrigated with effluents or leachates from a range of sources, with a view to develop low carbon and environmentally sustainable solutions for dealing with organic waste, while simultaneously creating renewable bio-energy.”

This will be achieved by using Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) Willow irrigated by municipal sewage effluent or land-fill leachate (liquid that moves through or drains from a landfill, usually created after rainwater mixes with the waste). These processes are built on many years of research by AFBI.

John McMillen, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, spoke enthusiastically about the potential of using SRC willow as a means of managing wastewater. He indicated that the benefits are numerous, including a reduction in the carbon footprint required to safely treat and dispose of effluent; reduction in the potential for polluting waterways; and the generation of useful by-product from the process, namely wood chip as a renewable energy fuel.

The strategic planting of willow can make a significant contribution to the financial and carbon economies of farms by acting as an energy crop for heat and power production, remediating dirty water, protecting stream from nutrient run-off, increasing bio-diversity and even, when planted along farm boundaries, improving animal disease bio-security.

Welcoming the EU funded project Pat Colgan, Chief Executive for the Special EU Programmes Body, said: “This is a highly significant environmental project that will create a number of long-term benefits in the protection of streams and waterways within Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. The project is one of a number of environmentally focused initiatives, funded under the EU’s INTERREG IVA Programme, that are addressing issues of serious ecological importance on a cross-border basis.”

ANSWER has eight cross-border partners which will be responsible for different technical and scientific areas of the project. The partners include: AFBI as the lead partner, Teagasc, IT Sligo, South West College (Cookstown Campus), NI Water, Monaghan and Donegal County Councils and Cookstown District Council.

Further information about the ANSWER project can be found on the AFBI web-site: (<http://www.afbini.gov.uk/index/research.htm>)

Living History at Killeeshil and Clonaneese

Project News



Participants at the fair and members of the Killeeshil and Clonaneese Historical Society with Joe Mahon from UTV's Lesser Spotted Ulster.

Stepping back over 200 years into history Killeeshil and Clonaneese Historical Society successfully re-enacted 'Cotton's Corner Country Fair', a market held in the area from 1817 to the mid 1800's, at Killymaddy Tourist Centre in May 2011.

This event funded through the South West Cluster PEACE III Partnership brought together both communities, with the objective to promote local heritage and to demonstrate how people from different backgrounds and religions worked and did business together almost 200 years ago. Local school children from a cross-community background also attended the event.

The participants relived traditional crafts and trades, and demonstrated social history through a re-enactment of a Hiring Fair, which was organised by children from St. Mary's Primary School, Cabragh and Lisferty Primary School. The hiring fair was an outdoor employment exchange where men, women and children made themselves available for temporary service.

Farmers would come from throughout the district and from neighbouring counties to employ workers, usually for six months at a time, or a 'term' as it was called.

The event was attended by over 300 people, and even caught the attention of Joe Mahon and the crew of UTV's Lesser Spotted Ulster! The show with Killeeshil and Clonaneese is due to be screened this autumn.

The cross-community event represented an opportunity to step back in time and explore a 19th century market, savouring the tastes and relishing the sights of a bygone Ireland.

The market hosted professional demonstrations in period dress with basket weaving, straw crafts, pottery, spinning, weaving with hand loom, patchwork, quilting, white work, candle making, butter making, and blacksmithing.

Visitors were entertained by traditional musicians with a fiddle, tin whistle and accordion accompanied with traditional dancing.



Boxing shows that it can be an inspiration for inclusiveness and tolerance and how religious and cultural divides can be forgotten when young fighters get together to train and compete against each other in a sport that values individual valour and determination over community background.

John Ross, one of the young members of the Cairn Lodge Boxing Club and a participant in the 'Punching for Peace' programme.

The Discipline of Tolerance

Real Life Interviews

For about 30 young children from Belfast, Dublin, Derry and Cork boxing has become a vehicle to build bridges and to make lifelong friendships.

One such child is thirteen-year-old John Ross who has made friends from all over Ireland after taking part in a training programme which brought together young people from several clubs in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

John took part in the 'Punching for Peace' programme which brought together children from several clubs north and south of the border for several weekends of training and socializing. Supported by the Belfast City Council with funding from the PEACE III Programme, the project is part of the Council's 'Our Space' initiative, a £266,000 project intended to tackle racism and sectarianism through sport.

John Ross, who is in his second year at Hazelwood School said of the experience: "It was good fun and I met lots of people and made lots of friends who like boxing as well. It was also a good opportunity to travel. The trip to Dundalk was my first time down south. They really have the same system as we do and their training is the same."

'Punching for Peace' began in the Holy Family Club in North Queen Street in Belfast, a training day at the Clann Naofa Boxing Academy in Dundalk followed, before the final competition for the Punching for Peace Youth Boxing Tournament at the Spectrum Centre on the Shankill Road.

According to Stephen Kirk, coach at the Cairn Lodge Boxing Club, the cross-border element was new for most of the young members but cross-community interaction is a continuous feature throughout the boxing competition season, with children from various clubs around Belfast visiting each other.

The event helped John increase the circle of friends who are interested in boxing. "Most of my friends at school know that I practise boxing but only two of them know anything about it. I now have other friends from the club and from other clubs who box and I can talk to them about it," he explained.

There are those who would maybe view boxing as a violent sport, conducive to a violent environment and sectarian behaviour. However, for coach Stephen Kirk the reality is very different as, in contrast to other sports, boxing is rarely associated with religion or cultural background: "In boxing there are no sides so it is harder to be sectarian. It is more about the individuals and their capabilities. The audience knows the boxer's background but they appreciate his personality and fighting skill," he explained.

John Ross, whose favourite boxer is Amir Khan, knows all about the discipline and determination that make a successful fighter. Following in his father's footsteps he trains four nights a week and recognises the benefits of the sport: "The other good thing about coming to the club is that we are here almost every day and it keeps us off the streets. I like the physical exercise more than anything but the discipline is very important, especially if you want to become a professional. It is hard work but I try to go to all the training sessions. I would like to maybe one day become a professional."

Stephen Kirk, who had seven of his pupils taking part in 'Punching for Peace' said of the initiative: "People in the club initially thought it was a good idea but in the end it was even better than we thought. The organisation was very good and there was a brilliant atmosphere from the beginning. The kids loved it and we would definitely like to participate again."

News & Info

Europe Day Highlights €402m in Investment across the Region

This year's Europe Day marked a significant investment by the European Union in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland, under the European Regional Development Fund.

Occurring annually on 9 May, the day is a celebration of peace unity across all 27 member states.

In total, approximately €402m (£365m) worth of European support has been allocated to hundreds of different projects under the EU's PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes.

Launched in 2007 the programmes, which will close in 2013, have been designed to reinforce peace and stability across the region as well as promote greater levels of cross-border co-operation between Northern Ireland, the border region of Ireland and western Scotland.

In the months to come an additional €180m (£164m) will be made available from both the PEACE III and the INTERREG IVA Programmes to new initiatives across the region.

For further information on the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes as well as the work of the SEUPB please visit www.seupb.eu

EU Commissioner Hahn Launches Peace Bridge

EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn recently opened the 'Peace Bridge' in Londonderry alongside the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD; First Minister, Peter Robinson MLA; Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness MP MLA; and Social Development Minister, Nelson McCausland MLA.

The third bridge across the River Foyle, the Peace Bridge has been awarded £14,677,823 from the EU's PEACE III Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). This funding represents a contribution from the European Regional Development Fund, the Northern Ireland Executive and from the Irish Government.

Welcoming the completion of the bridge, President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, said: "The European Union's structural funds have actively provided support to the region over the past 16 years, through the PEACE Programme. This financial assistance has helped drive forward thousands of projects and initiatives in support of the peace process. The Peace Bridge is one of the most significant of these projects and symbolises our shared hope for continued peace and improved prosperity for the citizens of Derry."

Officially opening the bridge EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, said: "One of the key objectives of the European Union is to bring people together to live in peace, with a common respect for shared values and 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."

The foot and cycle bridge physically and symbolically unites both sides of the River Foyle and is conceived as two distinct structural systems that work in harmony, a pair of identical curved suspension structures, each allied to opposing banks, in a fluid “S” shaped alignment. At the middle of the river both structural systems tangibly overlap, boldly interacting to create a single unified crossing – a structural handshake across the Foyle and an embrace in the centre of the river.

The bridge measures 235 metres bank-to-bank and 312 metres in total and has a gradient of 1/50. Designed for pedestrians and cyclists, the bridge runs from behind Guildhall Square to the Parade Ground in Ebrington.

The contract for the design and construction of the Peace Bridge was awarded to Northern Ireland company, Graham and a high quality design and construction team comprising of Wilkinson Eyre, London (architects), Faber Maunsell, Newcastle (structural engineers) and Rowecord, Wales (steelwork fabrication).

For further information contact Mo Durkan, Ilex:
mo.durkan@ilex-urc.com



News & Info

SEUPB Hosts Annual Certifying Authority Conference

The SEUPB was selected to host this year's Certifying Authority conference as part of its commitment to sharing best practice amongst the various authorities involved in the management of EU Structural Funds.

The two-day event took place in the Great Hall of Queen's University Belfast and was attended by approximately 100 delegates from over 15 different European countries including Austria, Belgium, Germany and Slovenia.

During the event the participants discussed a number of topics of strategic importance for Certifying Authorities across Europe including the management of information and data protection as well as the treatment of irregularities, withdrawals and recoveries.

A number of presentations were delivered by experienced practitioners in the field including Graeme Watson, from the UK Certifying Authority in Scotland, who gave a detailed presentation on how to successfully deal with auditors.

As part of the conference, three separate workshops were also held focusing on a range of issues including revenue generating projects, the management of relations between the Certifying Authority and the Managing Authority and the effective management of information.

Balmoral Show 2011

The annual Balmoral Show took place between 11 and 13 May at the King's Hall Complex in Belfast. The SEUPB, in conjunction with DFP European Division, DEL and DETI, organised an exhibit.

The Balmoral Show is Ireland's largest agriculture and food show and the 143rd show offered the usual extravaganza of colour, competition and showmanship along with daily displays of pedigree horses, ponies, poultry, pigs and goats.

As in previous years the SEUPB display formed part of the Government Departments' exhibition and offered a good opportunity for both farmers and rural dwellers to tap into the expertise that was on hand to provide guidance on a range of queries relating to European Funding.

Acting as a contact point for visitors with queries about European Structural Funds the stand promoted the financial assistance provided to Northern Ireland by Europe through the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes. Information was also available on the INTERREG IVB and IVC Programmes, as well as the European Social Fund and the Sustainable Competiveness Programme.

Alongside providing information on European Funding opportunities, staff at the stand also worked with various schools groups who were visiting the Balmoral Show to enhance knowledge about the European Union.

EU 'Building Bridges' Seminar

This year, the Special EU Programmes Body dedicated its annual PEACE III event to the theme of Building Bridges. The seminar, which was organised in partnership with the International Conflict and Research Institute (INCORE), from the University of Ulster, highlighted the vital contribution that bridges have made in transforming the social, economic and cultural landscapes of communities across Europe.

Held on the eve of the official opening of the European Union funded 'Peace Bridge' the seminar examined the history and impact of some of the most famous bridges across Europe.

Speaking at the event, Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB, said: "Bridges play an important role in any society. They support the economy but can also connect communities, both physically and symbolically."

The 'Stari Most' bridge in the city of Mostar, which was destroyed during the Croat-Bosnian war in 1993, was one of the examples discussed during the seminar. Following cessation of the conflict, the bridge's reconstruction in 2004 was seen as a crucial step in rebuilding economic and social cohesion within the region.

A number of other major bridge projects were discussed at the event including the 'Öresund' Bridge connecting Sweden and Denmark. The largest road and rail bridge in Europe, the impressive 7,845m long structure took five years to complete and acts as a catalyst for sustained social and economic growth for the cities of Copenhagen and Malmö.

Other projects highlighted at the event were the 'Samuel Becket' and 'James Joyce' bridges in Dublin, designed by world-renowned Spanish architect Dr Santiago Calatrava Valls.

The seminar also offered an opportunity to reflect upon the impact of the EU's PEACE Programme since its inception in 1995, thanks to a presentation by Dr. Kenneth Bush from INCORE.

The event, which took place at the City Hotel, was officially opened by the Mayor of Londonderry, Alderman Maurice Devenney.



Mayor of Derry-Londonderry Alderman Maurice Devenney, Pat Colgan, SEUPB and Prof Deirdre Heenan, Dean of Academic Development and Provost, Magee, University of Ulster, opening the event.

Transnational and Inter-regional Programmes Update

Over the past three years the SEUPB has been working with organisations in Northern Ireland to promote participation in the INTERREG IVB and IVC programmes. To date, there are 50 project partners participating in 43 projects across four programmes: the Northern Periphery Programme, the Atlantic Area programme, the North West Europe programme and the INTERREG IVC programme.

In order to mark the excellent work of those involved in transnational co-operation and to highlight how Northern Ireland is engaging with other regions across Europe, the SEUPB produced a transnational booklet. This publication highlights the achievements of projects and showcases the added value of transnational co-operation in Northern Ireland. The booklet will be disseminated at a transnational conference in Poland in September 2011 which will be a major EU event to consider transnational funding programmes post 2013.



Transnational calls

Northern Periphery Programme

To date over 90% of the funding has been committed and two further calls are expected. The eighth call for INTERREG IVB Northern Periphery Programme is open to main projects and will close on 14 October 2011. The ninth call will be open to strategic initiatives and will be launched in Spring 2012.

North West Europe

To date over 60% of the funding has been committed. The eighth call has recently closed and the next call for INTERREG IVB North West Europe is currently open and will close on 7 October 2011. A further call is expected to open in Spring 2012.

Atlantic Area

For Atlantic Area 75% of the funding has been allocated. The third call has recently closed and the decision to open future calls will be taken at a Programme Monitoring Committee meeting on 27-28 October 2011.

For more information please contact Teresa Lennon at teresa.lennon@seupb.eu

More details at: www.interreg4c.eu

DAIRYMAN – Improving Regional Economies and the Environment

A project entitled 'DAIRYMAN', funded by the European Union under INTERREG IVB and involving 14 institutions in nine European regions, is examining ways of improving the sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of dairy farming in North West Europe, with the aim of improving regional economies.

The project seeks to strengthen rural communities by improving farm resource management in a profitable way. This will be achieved by demonstrating new ways of working and innovative processes used within North West Europe networks of commercial pilot farms and Knowledge Transfer Centres.

In Northern Ireland (NI), where dairy farms represent 22% of the total agricultural area, the work is being coordinated by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), assisted by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE).

Primarily DAIRYMAN is concerned with quantifying the ecological, economic and social performances of participating regions, and determining the contribution of key rural stakeholders to these components of sustainability.

The project has also established a network of 130 commercial dairy pilot farms across the participating regions, which includes nine pilot farms in NI. These pilot farms are serving as focal points to encourage local farmers to adopt best management practices by clearly mapping and demonstrating the benefits of adopting new and innovative practices.

Finally, the project is concerned with the rapid transmission of state-of-the-art knowledge to dairy farmers. Nine Knowledge Transfer Centres (KTCs) have been established, one in each region, to evaluate innovative dairy farming systems aimed at improving sustainability.

The KTC in NI is based in Hillsborough and belongs to the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute. The main livestock enterprises on the farm are dairy, beef, sheep and pigs. The core research theme is sustainable livestock systems.

These centres have been connected virtually to provide a single European network. Training facilities will be available at each KTC with dedicated training programmes for farmers and farm advisors. Inter-regional exchanges of KTC staff members are being undertaken to maximise the utilisation of expert knowledge, while concurrent student and trainee exchanges should help to increase the knowledge levels of future professionals.

This €8.72m (£7.93m) project commenced in 2008 and will end in August 2013. The Lead Partner is Wageningen University, in the Netherlands.

For further information contact AFBI DAIRYMAN Sub-coordinator, Dr John Bailey, at john.bailey@afbini.gov.uk



Participants in the DAIRYMAN project at one of the training sessions organised by the project.

PEACE III Programme in Lisburn/Castlereagh

Under Phase I of their Action Plan, The Lisburn-Castlereagh PEACE III Partnership has committed over £1.3m of EU PEACE III funding to projects across the Lisburn and Castlereagh Council areas.

This funding is designed to tackle sectarianism and racism at a local level, and promote reconciliation and mutual understanding between communities and individuals of differing religious and cultural backgrounds.

To date the Partnership has funded over 30 projects which are spread right across the cluster area. These projects vary widely from youth focused programmes to cross-border projects, to young mother's training schemes. However they all have the same primary focus: to break down barriers and promote mutual understanding and reconciliation between individuals of different backgrounds.

'Youth Role Models' Programme

In December 2010 Copius Consulting were awarded a contract worth almost £100,000 to deliver the Partnership's 'Youth Role Models' Programme.

The project targeted a total of 50 disengaged young people from five areas across Lisburn / Castlereagh. These 50 young people then undertook a tailored training and development programme which focused on equipping them with OCN qualifications in subjects such as 'Unlocking Change' and 'Peer Education'.

Once this training was completed the young people then nominated two members from each group (in a total of 10 people) to become 'Youth Role Models' for their respective communities. These 10 young people then had the opportunity to undergo more in-depth OCN training by participating in a six week paid work placement and receive £1000 to develop a community based project within their area.

The overall aim of the project was for these young role models to go back into their communities and encourage other disengaged young people to get involved in training, community work and move away from sectarian and anti-social behaviour.

The project is now entering the final stages and has proved to be a great success. In all, 56 young people were recruited onto the Programme from the Old Warren area of Lisburn, the Colin area in Dunmurry and the Ballybeen, Braniel and Cregagh/Clonduff areas of Castlereagh. These young people have all completed their OCN qualifications and have nominated their 10 peers to become Youth Role Models.

These 10 Youth Role Models have recently finished their 6 week work placement where they worked in organisations such as The Old Warren Community Association and Dreamscheme NI. The young people are now working on their community based projects which include activities such as developing a Youth Forum for the Colin area and refurbishing a youth club in The Old Warren Estate.

Dreamscheme NI

In January 2011, Newtownbreda Baptist Church received a grant of £49,260 to run their Dreamscheme NI youth project. The project, based on the successful Dreamscheme UK model, was designed to promote reconciliation by engaging young people from a number of single and mixed identity areas of Castlereagh in a programme of community work.

The project follows the proven Dreamscheme model of 'Work=Points=Rewards'. The young people who are recruited onto the programme take part in a programme of community work and educational workshops for which they receive points which are then used to gain rewards.

To date over 50 young people have been recruited onto the Programme and they have been involved in various tasks throughout the community such as delivering Easter gifts to local senior citizens, decorating a local day centre and replacing sectarian graffiti in a subway with a more positive mural. The participants have also been involved in a number of workshops which aim to reduce sectarianism and racism by looking at attitudes, experiences and prejudice associated with this type of behaviour.

The participants then used the points they had gained to participate in a series of leisure activities and take part in a team building residential where they built relationships with individuals from different backgrounds through activities such as rock climbing and canoeing.

Project Manager Billy McClean said of the initiative: "We have been using the Dreamscheme model for over seven years now and it has proven to be an excellent method to encourage

disengaged young people to get involved in valuable community work and develop relationships with their peers from different backgrounds".

These two projects provide a brief insight into the important peace building work that is currently taking place across the Lisburn-Castlereagh cluster area thanks to the EU's PEACE III funding.

For more information contact Alistair Charles on alastair.charles@lisburn.gov.uk



Dreamscheme NI participants next to the mural which they repainted in a subway in Tullycarnet.

Members of the Steering Committee, Cllr Bernard Mc Guinness (Chair of the NWRCBG) and Cllr Cora Harvey (former Mayor of Donegal County Council), Marie Kerr, Charlene Curran, Loretta Mc Nicholls and Linda White, NWRCBG, with the project team.

Project News



Europe Supports Cross-border Planning in the North West

A project focusing on spatial planning in the north west region, which has received €518,035 (£471,000) from the INTERREG IVA Programme, has recently been launched in Lifford Town, Co Donegal by the then Mayor of Donegal, Cllr Cora Harvey.

The Spatial Planning and Collaborative Exchange of Information and Learning in the North West Region project (SPACEial) will deliver a three-year programme which will assist and inform the planning and development of the entire north west cross-border region. The objective is to identify and map key drivers of population change in the region over the period between 2000 and 2010. These changes include migration patterns, investment in infrastructure, job opportunities, as well as the supply of retail, leisure and recreational facilities. This information will in turn inform and help shape spatial planning and public policy decisions in the years to come, to ensure the long term sustainability of the communities.

Launching the initiative, Mayor of Donegal, Cllr Cora Harvey said: "This project is a new and pioneering initiative promoting a more evidence based approach to the planning of services and infrastructure within the region."

Donegal County Manager, Séamus Neely highlighted the challenges presented by the lack of reliable data: "One of the

biggest problems facing decision makers in relation to cross-border planning is the gap in information that exists across the region to inform plans and the development of services. This project sets out to address these deficiencies."

"This cross-border partnership between Donegal Co Co, Magherafelt District Council, Limavady Borough Council, Derry City Council, and Strabane District Council together with representatives from a variety of public organisations will greatly facilitate data sharing, collection, mapping and dissemination of information about the availability of facilities and services in relation to population settlements within the region."

Howard Keery, Director at the SEUPB welcomed the initiative saying: "Cross-border co-operation is at the heart of the INTERREG IVA Programme. One of its aims is to foster cross-border co-operation in the provision of better co-ordinated services that will significantly improve the lives of citizens living in the eligible area. SPACEial will undoubtedly make a vital contribution to mapping some of the needs and collecting a variety of data which will be invaluable in informing decisions and assisting public authorities in their short and long-term planning."

For further information contact Maureen Doherty at maureen.doherty@derrycity.gov.uk

New Urban Sports Park for Belfast

Project News

Belfast city centre has a new space for urban sports fans, after the Bridges Urban Sports Park, officially opened in July.

The £500,000 park, a project funded by the European Union's PEACE III Programme and by Belfast City Council, offers a world class facility which can be used by urban sports enthusiasts for competitions as well as casual fun. The park includes a variety of structures for BMX, rollerblading, free running and skateboarding.

The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Cllr Niall Ó Donnghaile, said the park's opening is 'an exciting day for the city, and the region. It is an iconic addition to Belfast's landscape.'

He also said that the name 'Bridges', chosen by public vote was particularly meaningful as the Council is working to build bridges between people and communities through sport.

He was speaking after a tour of the park in Little Patrick Street, under the M3 flyover, where he and other guests were treated to a display of skill from Freestyle BMX and Skateboard team and were dazzled by the excellence of Matt Gillespie, an international competitor in BMX, and skateboarder, Conhuir Lynn.

The space is leased to the Council by NI Transport Holdings Company and was, up until now, a derelict area. The park and the people it will attract will make an important contribution to the regeneration of this particular urban area.

Belfast Urban Sports (BUS) spokesman, Liam Lynch, said Bridges' success was down to the strong partnership between local enthusiasts and Belfast City Council: "We were delighted to secure PEACE III funding through the European Regional

Development Fund and now that the Park is operational we can develop urban sports and make them accessible to everyone."

"It's fantastic seeing it all coming together. It took us six years but we got there in the end," he continued.

For more information e-mail urbansports@belfastcity.gov.uk or visit the Council's website at www.belfastcity.gov.uk/urbansports



A demonstration of BMX at the opening of the new Bridges Park.

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,
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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 (excluding Greater Belfast), 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
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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, environment-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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