

Your EU!



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

WINTER 2010/11

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



Project Kelvin

Major Telecommunications Link
Completed

Cross-border Health Initiatives

EU Supports cross-border health
and social care

Sport Comes 2 Town

Sports Festival Receives 'London
2012 Inspire Mark'

Social Housing

£3.5M for Inter-community Housing



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



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007-2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union

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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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Editorial and Production Management:
John McCandless
Copy Writing: John McCandless and
Emília Ferreira

Photography: www.michaelcooper.com
Design: www.navigatorblue.com
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“Foreword”



Welcome to the Winter edition of Your EU! 2010 was a very exciting time for the SEUPB and featured a number of highly significant project launches such as the multi-million pound urban regeneration ‘Skainos’ project as well as the ‘Driving Change’ initiative which will help reduce the number of road deaths on a cross-border basis.

The Kelvin Project has also been completed. In receipt of approximately €30m worth of INTERREG IVA funding the initiative will improve the telecommunications infrastructure of the region and help put local businesses on a level playing field with their competitors across Europe. This is one of the key objectives of the INTERREG IVA Programme which seeks to promote competitiveness through the development of a stronger and more dynamic economy.

A new initiative designed to tackle segregation in social housing called ‘Building Relationships in Communities, (BRIC) has also been launched. The Programme has received £3.5m under the PEACE III Programme and aims to promote the idea of good relations and greater levels of community cohesion within the social housing sector.

To date approximately 60% of the assistance available under both Programmes has been allocated to projects across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland. This is an impressive achievement and proves that the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes are continuing to attract a large number of high calibre applications.

We would not have been able to provide assistance to these projects without the continued support of the Steering Committee members. Their invaluable input and collective experience is an essential component in the successful delivery of the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes.

This appreciation must of course be extended to the members of the Monitoring Committees who have an equally valuable role to play in ensuring that the Programmes are implemented as efficiently and transparently as possible.



A considerable amount of work is being conducted to encourage a larger number of projects to access both the Transnational (INTERREG IVB) and Inter-regional (INTERREG IVC) Programmes. To date over 50 different projects have been approved with 50 Northern Ireland based projects within these programmes.

As we pass the half-way point of the current programming period and move into the second half of both PEACE III and INTERREG IVA there is a lot to look forward to. A number of large-scale capital-build projects including the Peace Bridge will be completed and a large number of new and innovative initiatives will receive support.

Given the current economic climate EU Structural funding will play an even more important role in reinforcing peace and stability and promoting greater levels of cross-border co-operation to create a more vibrant and prosperous society.

If you have any feedback on this edition or would like to learn more about the projects detailed within its pages, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body

Pictured (L-R) John Cherry, SEUPB; Paddy McIntyre, Chief Executive of the NIHE; Ruth McAreavey, Vice-Chair RDC; and Mike Mullan Chair of TIDES Training next to a peace wall at Weaver's Court, in Belfast.

Project News

Inter-community Social Housing Initiative Receives £3.5M of EU Support

A new initiative designed to encourage greater levels of social integration within Northern Ireland's housing sector has recently been launched with assistance from the EU's PEACE III Programme.

The project called 'Building Relationships in Communities' (BRIC), formerly 'Putting Good Relations at the Heart of Social Housing', has received a total of £3,522,000 worth of assistance under PEACE III and is being delivered through an innovative partnership approach involving the Rural Development Council (RDC), the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and the non-profit specialised training consultancy TIDES.

According to figures from the NIHE, approximately 90% of social housing in Northern Ireland is still segregated into single identity communities. This has created further barriers to effective and long-term social integration and has served to further polarize many communities across the region.

The primary objective for the four-year project is to help reverse the history of that trend for segregated social housing,



by promoting the idea of good relations and greater levels of community cohesion. The project will achieve this by empowering the NIHE staff to develop a new approach founded on the principles of integration, tolerance and mutual respect. Over a four year period, the programme will deliver a bespoke Good Relations training programme to 80 residents' groups from 80 housing estates across Northern Ireland. As part of an ambitious initiative, it will also provide NIHE with the skills to influence the removal and re-imaging of up to two physical interfaces.

There is also a cross-border element to the project which will develop a new approach to the analysis of the housing market with a view to facilitating better planning in the border areas. It will explore housing policy on a cross-border housing market delivery model and promote joint government action on housing issues across the border region.

For further information contact Aileen Donnelly at the RDC: adonnelly@rdc.org.uk.

Using Art to Build PEACE with ICAN

Project News

A three-year project called ICAN (International Culture Arts Network), part-funded by the EU's PEACE III Programme, is using art to help build peace and reconciliation.

Created by the Playhouse theatre in Derry/Londonderry in partnership with visual arts organisation 'North 55' in Buncrana, Donegal, the project is promoting the use of the arts as a means to prevent conflict and change attitudes.

As part of the project, alternative methodologies used to deal with divided societies were discussed at two separate conferences entitled Exchange and Connect co-ordinated by ICAN at the Playhouse theatre in October.

At these events, artists from some of the world's most troubled areas, including Palestine, South Africa and Rwanda, as well as Northern Ireland, were invited to speak and share their experiences.

The first conference examined visual art and culture, whilst the second explored the impact of the performing arts.

Orla Moloney, from the Arts Council of Ireland chaired the visual arts conference, saying: "The conference is a great opportunity for me to connect with arts practitioners from across the world. I was very impressed by the speakers who are very engaged in their practice. They are all coming from different areas and very different contexts, and yet there are a number of common experiences and concerns relating to their work."

The Director of District 6 Museum in Cape Town, Bonita Bennett highlighted how the arts have impacted upon displaced people in South Africa, saying: "I was able to connect with people and learn how our situations are very different, but the issues that we are talking about are very similar."

Director of Rwanda Theatre Company Mashirika Hope Azeda also discussed the long-term impact of the Rwandan genocide and how children are the key to transforming a society left behind in the wake of the event.

Over 120 educators / artists / peacemakers / community workers and students attended the conference to learn creative approaches to peace-building which they can employ back in their local communities.

ICAN will be hosting another conference in the northwest on 19 and 20 May. This event will examine the role of the artist, of community workers and educators working within local communities.

The conference will focus on best practice showcasing national and international examples and examining the ethics associated with the delivery of socially engaged arts practice in countries affected by conflict.

For more information on the ICAN project contact elaine@derryplayhouse.co.uk or visit www.icanplayhouse.com.



Bonita Benitt from District 6 Museum in Cape Town speaking at the conference in Derry/Londonderry.

Pictured (l-r) celebrating the launch of the ICE project are (front row) Irene McCausland, DkIT External Relations Manager, Professor Richard Harris, University of Glasgow, Professor Renee Reid, University of Glasgow Caledonian and (back row) Ariane De Vriendt SEUPB with Professor Rodney McAdam, University of Ulster.

Project News

Fostering Competitiveness through Innovation

An INTERREG IVA funded project designed to increase the competitiveness of small to medium-sized enterprises, through the creation of a tri-regional innovation network, is making real headway.

Presenting a radically new way of enabling companies to enhance their competitiveness the 'Innovation for Competitive Enterprise', or ICE programme, which has received over £2m in assistance will help its participants to develop new business models, products and services.

Led by the Dundalk Institute of Technology, in partnership with University of Ulster, University of Glasgow and Glasgow Caledonian University, the three year programme will see experts engage with local companies through an intensive twelve month 'learning by doing' programme.

In-house training is provided in the form of a dedicated ICE Innovation Learning Programme project team which works on-site with the SME's to generate new ideas, develop those ideas, test and bring to market new products and services. The support provided is tailored to each individual business with access given to the relevant industry experts.

As part of this tailored in-house approach the ICE team will help to develop the core skills and knowledge needed to develop an innovation culture within the participant companies. They will also identify licensing or technology transfer opportunities and



encourage greater levels of mutually beneficial co-operation with potential sectoral partners on a cross-border cross-regional basis.

Speaking about the benefits of the programme, Irene McCausland, External Services Manager at DkIT said: "The core aim of the ICE project is to encourage the development of an innovation culture that is focused on creating commercial reward and is supported by an inter-regional network. The project is also particularly relevant in the current economic climate as SME's have tremendous potential to help lay the foundations for economic recovery."

Welcoming the project, Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB said: "This project epitomises one of the core themes of the INTERREG IVA Programme which supports enterprise on a cross-border basis. By encouraging greater co-operation between firms operating within different regions we will be able to enhance their collective ability to compete at a global level. Innovation lies at the heart of this approach and must be supported in order for businesses to grow and prosper in today's challenging economic landscape."

To date approximately 30 companies, across the eligible area, have signed up to the programme and a number of 'Innovation Information Workshops' have been held throughout the year.

For further information on ICE visit www.iceprogramme.com.



KITE Makes Innovation and Technology Available to Students and Businesses

Project News



(L to R) Patricia Wallace (Director of Business Development, Ayr College), Professor Terri Scott (President IT Sligo) and John Cochrane (Human Resources Manager, Ryobi Aluminium Casting, UK) at the recent Launch of the KITE Project at NRC's Farm Lodge Campus, Ballymena.

A collaborative project to provide training and access to the latest technology to businesses and students in the engineering and manufacturing sector has recently been launched. 'Knowledge & Innovation Transfer in Engineering' (KITE) is a tri-partite initiative between the Northern Regional College (NRC) in Northern Ireland, the Sligo Institute of Technology in Ireland and Ayr College in Scotland.

The €3.2 million initiative was officially launched on 11 November at the NRC in Ballymena, and was attended by An Tánaiste Mary Coughlan, who complimented the colleges for their collaboration: "I am impressed with the initiative and the potential it has for industry. It is this kind of approach that will help us maintain our competitiveness in the global economy."

KITE aims to ensure the long term sustainability of the manufacturing and engineering industries across the region. In order to achieve that it will support businesses with training on new technology and equip laboratories with the most modern industry standard equipment, to meet the training needs of both industry and students.

Furthermore, the project will promote a closer relationship between businesses and students through networking.

The goal is to increase the pool of highly trained technicians available and active in the job market, in order to enhance the vitality of the industry in the region.

Facilitating training and access to the latest technology is crucial for small and medium businesses that have a limited capacity to expand, acquire resources and build expertise in-house.

Speaking at NRC's Centre of Excellence for Manufacturing and Engineering, Director of NRC Trevor Neilands said: "As the engineering and manufacturing sectors face increased competition due to globalisation, we are combining our technical expertise to develop and implement training solutions for industry, while also providing access to state-of-the-art technical facilities for practical training."

Howard Keery, from SEUPB, highlighted the strategic relevance of the project: "KITE provides an excellent fit with the INTERREG IVA Programme's objectives. It is strategic and operates on a true cross-border and tri-partite capacity. By addressing a gap in the infrastructure for provision of access to advanced technology it will go a long way to support a more diverse economy".

For more information visit www.nrc.ac.uk/kite.



Sara Smallwoods at the Galliagh's Women's Group, thanks to which she has had the opportunity to participate in the 'Going Public' programme.

'Going Public' – Empowering Women

Real Life Interviews

Since September 2010, the Women Into Public Life (WIPL) project has been running “Going Public”, a unique programme that aims to enable women to acquire knowledge and the skills necessary to support them as they enter into or progress in public, civic and political life.

The project, led by Donegal County Council and funded under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, includes courses on leadership styles, the decision-making process, political systems and structures, barriers to equality, lobbying and campaigning among others.

The programme works directly with two groups of women, one in Derry/Londonderry, in Northern Ireland, and another in Donegal, Ireland.

Sara Smallwoods, aged 28, Londonderry

Sara Smallwoods joined WIPL shortly after starting in her position as Finance Officer for the Galliagh Women's Group in Londonderry. The project promoters had contacted the organisation and Sara was encouraged to sign up.

The 28-year-old mother of two decided to take part in the programme for the opportunity to acquire skills that would enable her to evolve professionally to better support her local community.

Of the activities undertaken as part of the course she particularly enjoyed the public speaking and voice coaching sessions. “When you work in admin you can hide. This course has helped me overcome that a little”, she explains. Another activity that she particularly enjoyed was the visit to Stormont, during which the participants had the opportunity to meet with several MLAs.

During the visit, the group looked specifically at the barriers that prevent women from going into politics and heard about the personal experience of some women MLAs.

The opportunity to meet the group from Donegal made Sara more aware of the difference between political and administrative structures in the two countries. It also made her more aware and concerned about the lack of co-operation between the institutions in both countries.

Prior to her participation in the project, this young professional was very reluctant to become involved in politics or public life for fear of being pigeon-holed but, as she explains, that has slowly changed: “During the course I learnt that politics is also about decisions in normal life and not only about religion and big issues.”

In relation to the traditional detachment of women from public life, Sara believes that it affects women from all social backgrounds. She sees individual personalities as an important factor and gives the example of her own priorities which lie with her family and two small children. Nevertheless, she recognises the difficulties presented by social and cultural environment. Her own background was not favourable to women in positions of leadership and traditional roles were the norm.

Overall, Sara says that the course is providing her with tools to voice her opinion and to get her view point across in a variety of situations. She references the use of public consultation procedures and how she will now feel much more confident to try and make a difference on issues directly affecting her community.



Mairéad Sheerin, one of the participants of the Donegal group taking part in the 'Going Public' programme.

'Going Public' – Empowering Women

Real Life Interviews

Mairead Sheerin, aged 48, Donegal

Across the border, in Donegal, Mairead Sheerin has experienced similar benefits from her participation in the programme.

The 48-year-old suffers from a chronic illness that forced her into early retirement and her subsequent experience of the health service was the main reason why she decided to participate in the initiative. She wanted to share the difficulties she went through, especially in the period before being diagnosed during which she felt misunderstood and suffered from what she describes as 'a significant' lack of support from the healthcare system.

Talking about her motivation, she says: "I would like to encourage people to speak up about what they are not happy with. Sometimes people have this fear of questioning authority and institutions but sometimes it is necessary and you're the one who knows best how you feel. It is important to express your opinion, as long as you do it with respect for other people."

Mairead learned about "Going Public" casually during a visit to her local Jobs & Benefits office when, after five years, she finally felt that her health was no longer an impediment to having a more active life.

Participation in public life is not new for this mother of five, who had always been very involved with her children's school fundraising initiatives, whilst also running a family retail business. She mentions that her experience showed her that

"it is often the same people who tend to be involved and make their voice heard, perhaps because they have a more pro-active personality."

In Mairead's opinion, many of the obstacles to women's participation in public life are related to their own choices and priorities, particularly with what she describes as women putting "too much responsibility on their own shoulders".

"Limited childcare is still often put forward as a barrier and described as a woman's responsibility to sort out. It is seen as something that the mother has to be concerned with. Why is it that when there is a group of women around the table talking about their involvement in public life, childcare is an issue, but it is not a theme when a group of men are sitting around a table? Often it is women who don't consider changing this approach. A lot still has to happen and it must start with a change in mentalities".

She claims that her experience has also shown her that people do not always understand that decisions are made at various levels and that leadership and responsibility are important in all areas of life. "In my opinion, people should feel responsible for even the little things in life and strive to be the best they can as a citizen", she concludes. In line with this approach to life, she would like to in the future do something related to tackling drink-driving, a serious social problem in the region where she lives.

For more information on the Women Into Public Life project please contact Noirin Clancy at noirin.wipl@gmail.com.

News & Info

New Multi-activity Adventure Centre at Castlesaunderson



Work has begun on the development of a 30 acre multi-activity adventure centre, including a permanent Jamboree site, at Castlesaunderson. The centre is capable of accommodating 1,000 people at any given time and will improve the offer of such facilities in the border area between Cavan, Fermanagh and Monaghan.

The project, which is funded by the European Union's PEACE III Programme will create a neutral environment which can be enjoyed by people from all communities and backgrounds. The facility will also act as a centre for cross-community dialogue promoting reconciliation, mutual understanding and tolerance. The contractor on the project is P. Elliott & Co. Ltd. and work is due to be complete by June 2011.



Present at the signing of the contract for the Project were, along with Minister Brendan Smith, representatives from Northern Ireland Scout Council, Scouting Ireland; Contractors – P. Elliott & Co. Ltd.; Special EU Programmes Body; County Manager, Cavan County Council; Cathaoirleach, Elected Members & Staff of Cavan County Council and Council's Law Agents, Maloney Solicitors.

INTERREG IVA Project Receives European Award

The ISLES (Irish-Scottish Links on Energy Study) project has won a prestigious award for “Best Partnership Working in the Use of European Structural Funds”.

At a ceremony held on 23 November 2010 at the Glasgow School of Art, ISLES came top of twenty-one entries in what was the most competitive of the seven categories comprising the awards scheme.

Receiving the award on behalf of the project team, Mike McElhinney of the Scottish Government and co-chair of the ISLES Steering Group noted that the strength of ISLES was its collaborative structure and outlook, and that the INTERREG IVA funding brought added value to the work of the project.

The ISLES Project is a tri-partite initiative between the governments of Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland, to deliver an in-depth study on the potential to develop an offshore transmission network between the three regions, which will boost its renewable energy distribution capacity.

Commenting on the award, Howard Keery, Director, said:

“This is a much sought after and prestigious award. The partners involved in the ISLES project have demonstrated a truly collaborative effort in driving the initiative forward and are to be congratulated. Without this partnership focused approach the cross-border based study would not have become a reality”.



Dignitaries present included Keith Brown, Scotland’s Minister for Skills and Lifelong Learning, and senior officials from the European Commission’s DG Regio and DG Employ.

The full list of shortlisted projects is available at: <http://www.hipp.org.uk/news.asp?id=1098>.

News & Info

Minister Attwood Marks Beginning of Work at Landmark East Belfast Project

Social Development Minister Alex Attwood, recently cut the first sod of the Skainos project on the Lower Newtownards Road in East Belfast. The Skainos Project involves the demolition of a number of buildings to create a purpose built, flagship development designed to serve the needs of the wider East Belfast community.

The multi-use facility will deliver a multitude of structures and services including: social housing; a college/training centre; seminar rooms; a youth centre; a day-care crèche; mixed tenure apartments; commercial retail units; office accommodation; a multi-purpose hall; and a social economy kitchen and café. The project has been awarded over €6 million from the PEACE III Programme, with additional funding from several other organisations including the Department for Social Development and the International Fund for Ireland.

During the event which marked the beginning of work on site, Alex Attwood said: “This development will alleviate dereliction along a major arterial route providing a significant opportunity to reinvigorate and revive the area, delivering real change in one of Belfast’s most deprived areas.”

“I would like to congratulate Skainos Limited, their partners and stakeholders on the start of the construction of such an ambitious project. The decline of Belfast’s traditional industries such as ship building and engineering has led to a decline in economic prosperity in this area of the city. Pound for pound across government funding urban regeneration makes sense,

helps business, creates footfall and builds jobs. The Skainos project is an example of how deprivation can be addressed and regeneration stimulated by bringing together the public, private and community sectors in a partnership approach,” he continued.

Commenting on the EU-funded project Howard Keery, Director with the Special EU Programmes Body, which manages the PEACE III Programme, said: “Upon completion this project will create a new shared space where people from all communities can come together in a safe and neutral environment. This is one of the core objectives of the EU’s PEACE III Programme as it seeks to reclaim public spaces for use by all sections of the community.”

For additional information see www.skainos.org.



Sport Comes to the North East

An inspirational sports and leisure festival funded by the North East PEACE III Partnership and managed by the University of Ulster Sports Academy took place in Ballymoney during November 2010.

The Sport Comes 2 Town festival, which was granted the 'London 2012 Inspire Mark', ran a programme of sports activities for participants on the North East PEACE III Sports and Leisure programme over a number of weeks. These activities were aimed at promoting sport in the local community and encouraging families to be more active. The festival ended with an open event for participants and members of the public in the Joey Dunlop centre, in Ballymoney.

The London 2012 Inspire Mark is the badge of the London 2012 Inspire Programme, which recognises innovative and exceptional projects that are inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Over 1,500 people attended the event for a day of family fun and cultural integration. More than twenty local sports were showcased at the festival from table tennis, badminton, climbing, cheerleading, ballet, bowls and wrestling. Coaches of Rugby, Football, GAA and Hurling, representing more than twenty clubs, delivered a variety of coaching and education sessions.

The gymnastics and cheerleading club put on a wonderful display of glitz and glamour as they wowed the crowds with aerobic feats, including a human pyramid. The festival atmosphere was enriched with a band who filled the hall with a cultural mixture of music, giving young people the opportunity to play various instruments.

Commenting on the success of the initiative, Patricia Crossley North East PEACE III Partnership member said: 'Sport Comes 2 Town was an exciting day at Joey Dunlop Centre - there was a real buzz amongst young people taking part and enthusiasm from the parents watching. Personally I loved being involved, especially in playing the drums!'

The feedback from participating clubs and members of the public was excellent, with a number of clubs attracting new members to their activities.



Participants try the musical workshop at the Sports Comes 2 Town event at the Joey Dunlop Centre.

News & Info

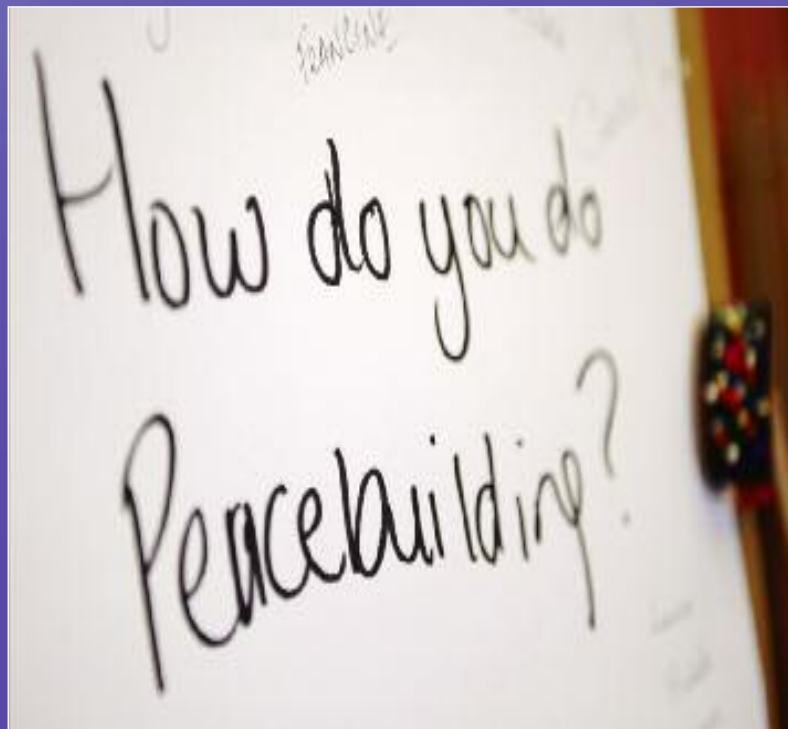
Irish Peace Centres Opens Space 'For Peace'

With the brief of creating an open and inclusive space for dialogue between practitioners in the peace and reconciliation field, Open Space Technology (OST), a process for facilitating complex meetings, was the logical format for an Irish Peace Centres conference. This increasingly popular style of conferencing is being used as a creative and engaging methodology for peace dialogue throughout the world. It is described as a space that holds the complexity of human interaction.

For its conference, the Irish Peace Centres opted for the overarching framework of "For Peace". It became clear that the variety of issues in the sector could not be categorised by a group sitting around a table. The consensus was that "For Peace" would be open-ended so as to allow participants to interpret it in a way that was relevant to them. It created an opportunity for participants to take ownership of their suggested topic of discussion, and to wage as many topics as they wanted.

The feedback from the participants suggested that this type of event was a significant opportunity not only for networking, but also to raise issues relating to peace building which impact upon their working practices, and sharing the solutions. It gives practitioners a renewed sense of vigour that reawakens creativity.

In addition to sharing best practice in terms of methodologies for peace building and reconciliation work, practitioners wanted to capture the organisational learning, especially that of working in a partnership or consortium. Against a backdrop of funding uncertainties, many practitioners were keen to explore the value and logistics of partnerships as a means of maximising resources available.



The overall event proved to be a success: Irish Peace Centres managed to bring together a mosaic of practitioners working at grassroots level and interacting with groups and individuals to explore new ways of developing the sector and ensuring that the impact of their work is felt in the local communities.

For additional information contact Bronagh Sharpe at bsharpe@cooperationireland.org.

PEACE Programme's Splashing Link with Special Olympics

The PEACE Programme has inspired a worthwhile project bringing together different teams of Special Olympics hopefuls.

A chance meeting in Ballygawley in 2006 between a SIPTU (Services, Industrial, Professional and Technical Union) representative and a Unite Union representative led to an exciting project with children and adults with learning disabilities, in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Paddy Curtis (Unite, Derry-Londonderry) and Pat O'Malley (SIPTU, Sligo) were attending the same City Bridges conference, funded by the EU PEACE II Programme through Co-operation Ireland, when they realised that they had something very special in common. Both Paddy and Pat were swimming instructors and volunteers with Special Olympics Swimming clubs in their local area. They agreed to arrange a gala between the two clubs, which later evolved into a more formalised co-operation between the 'Splashin Penguins' from Sligo and the 'Foyle Special Olympics Swimming Club' from Derry-Londonderry.

The 'Foyle Special Olympics Swimming Club' travelled to Sligo in September 2007 with the support from the City Bridges initiative, the Irish Trade Union Trust (ITUT), and SIPTU'S Social Solidarity Services. This initial trip, which included a welcome from the Mayor, a visit to the local fire station and a swimming gala and dinner, proved so successful that a return visit was immediately planned.

In March 2008, Derry-Londonderry hosted an event to welcome the Sligo team and due to the increasing success of the exchange, Special Olympics Swimming Clubs in Letterkenny,

Strabane and Omagh were also invited to participate in the next round of events, which took place in September 2009. These events provided a sporting and social platform for the athletes, parents, carers and volunteers which made them a unique experience.

In September 2010, the group, including the Omagh Special Olympics Swimming Club, went back to Sligo for an extended stay and another extremely successful event.

Plans are in place for a visit to Omagh in 2011 to hopefully keep the project and the relationship going. It is proof that communication and dialogue developed through EU PEACE-funded projects can be a catalyst for new projects and ideas which thrive beyond the duration of the funded projects.



The 'Foyle Special Olympics Swimming Club' trains in Derry/Londonderry every Wednesday evening.



Project News

Transnational and Inter-regional Programmes Update

INTERREG IVB and IVC are transnational and inter-regional programmes that promote partnerships across member states to address common issues and problems. Organisations in Northern Ireland are eligible to participate in a range of programmes with calls on-going during 2011.

INTERREG IVC Programme

The fourth call is currently open and will close on 1 April 2011. The call for proposals will be open for all themes in both priorities and approximately €100m is available for this call.

The INTERREG IVC Programme is open to local and regional authorities and aims to improve the effectiveness of regional policies. The main priorities of the programme focus on 'Innovation and the knowledge economy' and on 'the environment and risk prevention'.

SEUPB will host an information event on the programme during February 2011. In addition, the programme's annual conference will be held in Budapest on 3-4 February 2011. More details at: www.interreg4c.eu.

Northern Periphery Programme

On the 14 January 2011, the Northern Periphery Programme formally launched two calls for application: the Seventh Call for Applications and a Strategic Project Call. The deadline for both is 21 March 2011.

The Seventh Call is open to applicants from across the programme area addressing both priorities:

1. Promoting innovation and competitiveness in remote and peripheral areas.
2. Sustainable development of natural and community resources.

For the strategic project call potential projects are requested to submit their ideas by 4 February. On 14 and 15 February 2011, a Strategic Project Development Clinic will be held for applicants in Copenhagen. This will be followed by a "How to apply" seminar on 16 February. For more information please visit: www.northernperiphery.eu.

Atlantic Area Programme

To date almost 70% of the Atlantic Area programme has been committed. A call for applications will be launched early in 2011. The announcement of the call for proposals is expected in the coming weeks and more details will be provided at the time. For more information please visit: www.coop-atlantico.com.

North West Europe Programme

With approximately half of its €335 m budget still to be committed, the North West Europe programme's eighth call for proposals will open on 4 March 2011 and close on 1 April 2011. The Application Pack will be available from 4 March 2011 at North West Europe website.

On 15 February, a workshop will be held in Brussels focusing on 'building strong and prosperous communities'.

For more information please visit the programme website – www.nweurope.eu.

For further information please contact Teresa Lennon, Programme Manager for INTERREG IVB and IVC at teresa.lennon@seupb.eu.

O40 Celebrates the Success of Older People

Project News

August 2010 marked a milestone in the 'Older People for Older People' (O40) project, which is managed in Northern Ireland by Queen's University Belfast. Over 300 policy-makers, practitioners, academics and other representatives from the 'age sector' attended a special celebration event at Parliament Buildings, Stormont. Hosted by Anna Lo MLA, the event celebrated the achievements of the programme in Northern Ireland, which includes participants aged between 55 and 90.

Funded under the INTERREG IVB Northern Periphery Programme, the initiative has partners active in Greenland, Finland, Sweden and Scotland, as well as Northern Ireland. O40 has been responsible for nurturing the development of a number of social economy enterprises including a pilot radio station and a 'singles only' be-frienders' cafe.

The project's objective is to assist older people in rural and peripheral areas to establish sustainable social enterprises for the benefit of their peers, to address social exclusion and isolation and to promote good mental and physical health.

By providing business mentoring, training and fundraising support to the participants, O40 capitalises on older people's skills, knowledge and experiences, building on their capacity for innovation, action, enterprise and voluntary activity.

At the event, local broadcaster Lynda Bryans outlined the three initiatives currently taking place in the Ards Peninsula, south Armagh and the mid-Ulster area.

In Cookstown, O40 recently restructured the group's volunteer base and management committee, moving into High Street premises from where it runs a lunch-time restaurant and a

meals-on-wheels service, delivering meals to clients' homes. Most of the vegetables used are sourced and harvested from local farms and allotments owned and managed by older people.

Speaking at the event in Stormont, project manager Dr Katy Radford, Queen's University's School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, acknowledged the support of representatives from DHSSPS and DARD, from the Rural Development Council, the Rural Community Network, the Commission for Victims and Survivors and the Older Person's Advocate. She said: "All these organisations enabled the O40 groups to recognise and fulfil their potential, as well as to realise the impact they could have on the government's approach to issues impacting directly on the lives of older people."

For more information about O40 visit www.o40s.eu.



Margaret Gilbert MBE from O40's Allotments To Feed All project in Cookstown; broadcaster Lynda Bryans and Anna Lo MLA at the Opportunities For Older People event in Stormont.

The performers on stage

Project News

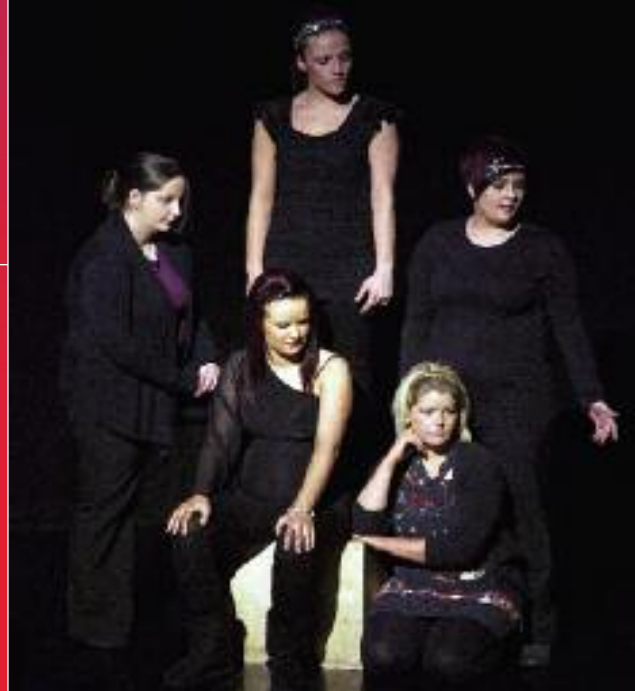
Growing up in the Shadow of Violence

Five young women, aged 12-25 have taken to the stage to share their stories of how the conflict in Northern Ireland and growing up with loss and bereavement has shaped their lives.

The drama performance was organised by the WAVE Trauma Centre Belfast, which the five women attend. The objective was to tell their stories in order to highlight and give recognition to WAVE's support services to young people who have grown up in families affected by violence.

The project of the Wave Trauma Centre is supported by the EU's PEACE III Programme, managed on behalf of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) by the Community Relations/Pobal Consortium. The event entitled 'Back to the Future' focuses on the stories of young people who have been bereaved or traumatised as a result of the conflict. Alana, a 21-year-old performer explained her connection to WAVE:

"I started coming to WAVE when my father was murdered, almost four years ago. WAVE offered me a lifeline at a time when I could see no way out and I really needed someone to talk to.



Getting to meet other young people who have similar experiences to me has also given me strength. I know I am not alone."

The young people are now sharing their stories through the medium of drama. As part of the performance, one young woman reflects on the Holy Cross protest, the impact it had on her then, as a four year old, and what it means to her now, at the age of 13.

Youth Psychotherapist, Helena Stuart, provides a therapeutic perspective on trans-generational trauma and what this means to us as a society that is working towards peace, whilst dealing with the legacy of the conflict.

Young people from the WAVE Youth Services have organised and hosted the event. This is a courageous moment for them and may also help others in need seeking support from the centre. Since the drama performance first took place in November, WAVE has already seen an increase in the demand for youth services.

Further information on WAVE Youth can be found online at www.wavetraumacentre.org.uk.



Project News

Major New Telecommunications Link is Completed

Project Kelvin, which has received over €30 million of support from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, has been completed. Linking Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland to North America through a new transatlantic telecommunications cable, the project is set to improve business connectivity and performance across the region.

Welcoming the completion of the EU-funded project Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body, said: "By improving the telecommunications infrastructure of the region Project Kelvin will help to put local businesses on a level playing field with their competitors across Europe. This is one of the key objectives of the INTERREG IVA Programme which aims to promote competitiveness through the development of a stronger and more dynamic economy."

Northern Ireland Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster MLA recently announced the completion of the project, saying: "The completion of the Project Kelvin network means Northern Ireland has a fast, low cost and resilient telecommunications link to North America, with improved connectivity in Europe.

"Northern Ireland businesses now have access to the same international telecoms services found in major cities like Amsterdam and New York. In the current economic climate, we must give every possible advantage to Northern Ireland

companies to enable them to compete in the global export market. This international telecommunication capacity provides increased opportunities to sell goods and services overseas," she continued.

Co-financed under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI), in conjunction with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) in Ireland, awarded the €30million contract to Hibernia Atlantic in December 2008.

Project Kelvin involved connecting a submarine cable to the Hibernia North Transatlantic cable located 22 miles off the north coast of Ireland. The cable was brought ashore at Portrush in June 2009. Work continued on the building and testing of the terrestrial infrastructure through to late summer 2010.

Approximately 13 towns have now been connected in a terrestrial fibre-optic ring to the cable including Armagh, Ballymena, Belfast, Coleraine, Londonderry, Omagh, Portadown, Strabane, Letterkenny, Castleblayney, Dundalk, Drogheda and Monaghan.

Businesses across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland can now access the direct international connectivity offered by the Project Kelvin network through existing local telecoms networks.

Minister for Housing and Local Services, Michael Finneran TD at the Driving Change launch in Farmleigh House.



Project News

Driving Change and Saving Lives

A new project with the potential to save hundreds of lives across Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland was recently launched in Farmleigh House, Dublin.

Called 'Driving Change' the cross-border initiative will help to reduce the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on roads along the border area.

The three year project, which has received approximately €1.4m of support from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, brings together several partners in a multi-agency based approach to reducing road traffic collisions.

The partners in the initiative are youth focused voluntary group 'Public Achievement' based in Belfast, as well as Fire and Rescue services across Northern Ireland and Ireland.

As part of the project, additional training and equipment will be provided for fire service personnel to enhance standards of accident extrication and casualty handling at the scene. Public Achievement will engage directly with young people (aged 17-24) and their families to impress upon them the real-life consequences of dangerous driving.

This will be achieved through specialised 'Angels Advocacy' workshops for young women and a 'Safe to Drive' programme targeting young men.

Education seminars will also be co-ordinated for parents to help them teach their children about the dangers that exist on our roads and the need to act responsibly.

Speaking at the launch of the project the Irish Minister for Housing and Local Services, Michael Finneran TD, said: "The objective of the Driving Change project is to promote safer driving and help to improve the quality of response by the emergency services when incidents unfortunately do occur. It is a project which I believe will play a significant part in addressing one of the most serious issues affecting this country, the Island of Ireland as a whole and particularly our border communities.

"It is my sincerest hope that in a few years time when we come to evaluate the impact of this project we will see the positive benefit that it will have made," he continued.

Other speakers at the event included Pat Colgan the Chief Executive of SEUPB, Paul Smyth the Director of Public Achievement, and Colin Turkington the current British Touring Car Champion and one of the leading Touring Car drivers in the world.

For additional information visit www.publicachievement.com.

EU Funds New Cross-border Health Initiatives

Project News

Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) has received a significant amount of assistance under the INTERREG IVA Programme to deliver a wide-range of cross-border health and social care programmes under the 'Putting Patients, Clients and Families First' initiative.

Amongst these is 'Time IVA Change', a three-year multi-agency project which has been designed to raise awareness of the negative effects of alcohol consumption on adults and young people.

According to statistics gathered by CAWT, alcohol abuse is a serious problem and was a contributing factor in approximately 47% of male suicides and 33% of female suicides in the northwest of Northern Ireland in 2002. In 2005 alone, approximately 40% of all road traffic arrests were alcohol related.

The project is taking a partnership based approach to alleviate this problem and is working closely with the local community to address some of the root causes and contributory factors which lead to alcohol misuse particularly, although not exclusively, amongst young people.

Currently 'Time IVA Change' is working with the Castlefin Community Mobilisation Group on a Community Alcohol Survey, the results of which will be used to direct specific localised activities to reduce the negative effects of alcohol consumption.

Another cross-border EU funded health initiative, supported through CAWT, is helping to reduce Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) waiting lists for people living within the Southern Trust area of Northern Ireland. To date, 859 Southern Trust patients have been seen in ENT clinics in either Craigavon or Daisy Hill hospitals, under the scheme.

In addition, over 2,200 people living in the Dublin North East area have received ENT outpatient appointments in Monaghan Hospital with day care treatment also available if required. This unique model for planning and managing a cross-border hospital service has been established between the Southern Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland and the HSE Dublin North in Ireland.

As part of the initiative nurses from Monaghan hospital took part in observational training in the Southern Trust, with the approval of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NI) and An Bord Altranais (Irish Nursing Board).

Commenting on the project Bernie McCrory from CAWT said:

"The largest portion of our activity is focused on acute hospital services. This unique partnership serves as a model for other cross-border hospital services currently in the planning stages. Both partners to this ENT initiative, which is already bringing real health benefits to the local border population is committed to its continuation."

For more information on CAWT's cross-border health initiative visit www.cawt.com.



ENT patient, Noel Marron from Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan who received treatment recently under the cross border ENT initiative between the HSE DNE and the Southern Trust in Northern Ireland with staff from the Monaghan Hospital and Linda Saunderson, Programme Manager, CAWT cross border Acute Hospitals Project.

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 5117000
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 (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 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, 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:
Teresa Lennon at the SEUPB Belfast office:
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6723
E: teresa.lennon@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
T: +44 (0) 28 8226 5750