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

WINTER 2011/12

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



MalinWaters

Promoting Irish and Scottish Waters
as a Sailing Destination

Alexandra Park's Peace Gate

North Belfast Communities Open
to Reconciliation

ISLES Study

Irish-Scottish Offshore Renewable
Energy Grid is Feasible

Layers of Meaning

First and Deputy First Ministers
Launch Oral History Project



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007-2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



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**The Scottish
Government**

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

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

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“Foreword”

Welcome to the winter edition of Your EU! The last few months have been very busy, with many exciting new projects getting underway and also a few others drawing to conclusion.

One of the projects recently launched is INIS Hydro, a highly technical marine research project between Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland, which aims to map geography of the seabed in key areas along the coast. ISLES, another project focusing on harnessing the potential of the sea, had its closure event in November. The event served as an opportunity to present the findings of a feasibility study on the development of an off-shore renewable energy grid in the Irish Sea.

From the sea to the river, the Peace Bridge over the river Foyle reached another important milestone as a quarter of a million people have used the foot and cycle bridge since its opening in June 2011.

In this edition we look back at this year's Europe Open Days in Brussels. Over the course of three days, thousands of projects from across all the EU member states were showcased in the capital of Europe. The SEUPB was present and organised a well attended workshop entitled 'Reaching the Margins' which focused on social exclusion and the challenges of working with hard to reach communities.

Last October, the SEUPB also organised a major conference on the INTERREG IVA Programme in partnership with the Centre for Cross-border Studies. A new and innovative 'Cross-border Impact Assessment Toolkit' was launched at the event to approximately 100 delegates. Participants included programme managers, academics and researchers from border regions all over Europe, including the Upper Rhine region between France, Germany and Switzerland; the south-eastern Alpine region between Austria, Slovenia and Italy; the Czech-Polish border region; Catalonia and the Basque Country.

As 2011 draws to a close, I am pleased to announce that 71% percent of the INTERREG IVA Programme has been committed. This means a total of €181 million in funding has so far been committed to cross-border projects involving organisations in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Western Scotland. 79% or €262 million in funding has been committed to date to promote peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland, as part of the PEACE III Programme.



The SEUPB continues to work to encourage partners in Northern Ireland to play an active role in INTERREG IVB and INTERREG IVC funded projects.

Finally, I would like to leave a word of appreciation to the many organisations that have recently submitted applications for funding under both the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA programmes. We have been working hard to get applications for funding through the assessment process and we expect to have many more very worthy initiatives to present to you in the up-coming editions.

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body

Mayor of Donegal, Cllr Noel McBride and guest celebrity Derek Davis pictured with the crew of the Rathmullan lifeboat at the launch event for MalinWaters brand on 1 July.

Project News

MalinWaters® Makes a Splash

MalinWaters was launched on 1 July at Seafest in Rathmullan by Councillor Noel McBride, Mayor of Donegal. This exciting new brand is the consumer brand of the Sail West project, a €7.4M Marine Tourism initiative, linking the coastlines of Donegal, Sligo, Northern Ireland and western Scotland.

To celebrate the brand launch, television personality Derek Davis took the plunge on board a boat in Rathmullan to test the fantastic MalinWaters area himself. In welcoming the new MalinWaters brand, he referred to the strong maritime history between Ireland and Scotland and was sure that the new brand would be a huge success.

A new consumer website www.malinwaters.com will follow the launch this summer; the site will provide key information on the MalinWaters product offering, including sailing, surfing, diving, kayaking and angling among other marine leisure activities.



The brand name itself was inspired by the name given to the sea area covering the majority of the Sail West project area. The sea area of Malin is officially recognised and referenced by the Met office and therefore is a term widely recognised by marine leisure enthusiasts.

Commenting on the MalinWaters brand Donegal County Manager Seamus Neely said: "The MalinWaters marketing initiative will be a great boost to all working and involved in the tourism industry. It will provide comprehensive information on the quality marine leisure product we have on offer and through working with our partners in Northern Ireland and Scotland, enable us to package and promote this fantastic product. Most importantly upon completion it will create sustainable employment opportunities and significantly increase the number of tourists coming to the area."

For further information contact Eilish Gallagher at egallagher@donegalcoco.ie

A Gate to a Lasting Peace

Project News

September 2011 marked a milestone in the progress towards a lasting peace in North Belfast. The peace wall which has divided the Alexandra Park in the north of the city is no longer an impassable barrier since a new 'peace gate' was opened in the wall.

The barrier was erected in 1994 in order to mitigate the frequent sectarian rioting between the communities of Newington (Nationalist) and Tigers Bay (Loyalist) in North Belfast. The new gate allows local residents access to both parts of this iconic Victorian park which opened in 1881 and is the only known public park in Western Europe with a wall dividing it into two separate entities.

The initiative is part of the wider Regenerating Communities Trough Regeneration project which is led by Groundwork NI and funded by the PEACE III Programme. For the residents of North Belfast the peace line that runs through Alexandra Park has been a constant feature in their daily lives. The decision to open the peace gate followed a long period of consultation with the local residents, to ensure that the initiative had the support of the communities living in the area.

Sylvia Gordon, Director of Groundwork NI said: "Groundwork NI has been working closely with the steering group over the past two years and with local residents and community groups from both sides of the communities surrounding Alexandra Park to move the regeneration plans forward. This is a first step towards bringing both communities together through a recreational space and we would hope this will have a direct and positive impact on the daily lives of people who live within the area of the park."

The opening of the new peace gate in Alexandra Park initially operated on a pilot basis for a period of three months, which

was extended after the steering group met in December and determined the success of the pilot phase. The gate is open daily between 9.00am-3.00pm. Belfast City Council Parks & Leisure Department has responsibility for its operation.

It has been agreed by all members of the Alexandra Park Steering Committee to monitor both communities' responses to the newly installed peace gate from its official opening. This is essential in order to manage any adverse reactions particularly from the perspective of potential interface disturbances.

Groundwork NI, through the three year, £988,000 worth, EU-funded Reconciling Communities Through Regeneration (RCTR) Programme, began a process of community engagement in 2009 with a view to building relationships at the local level within fractured communities and facilitating the regeneration of the interface.



Photo: Michael Cooper.

The map showing the seven survey areas.

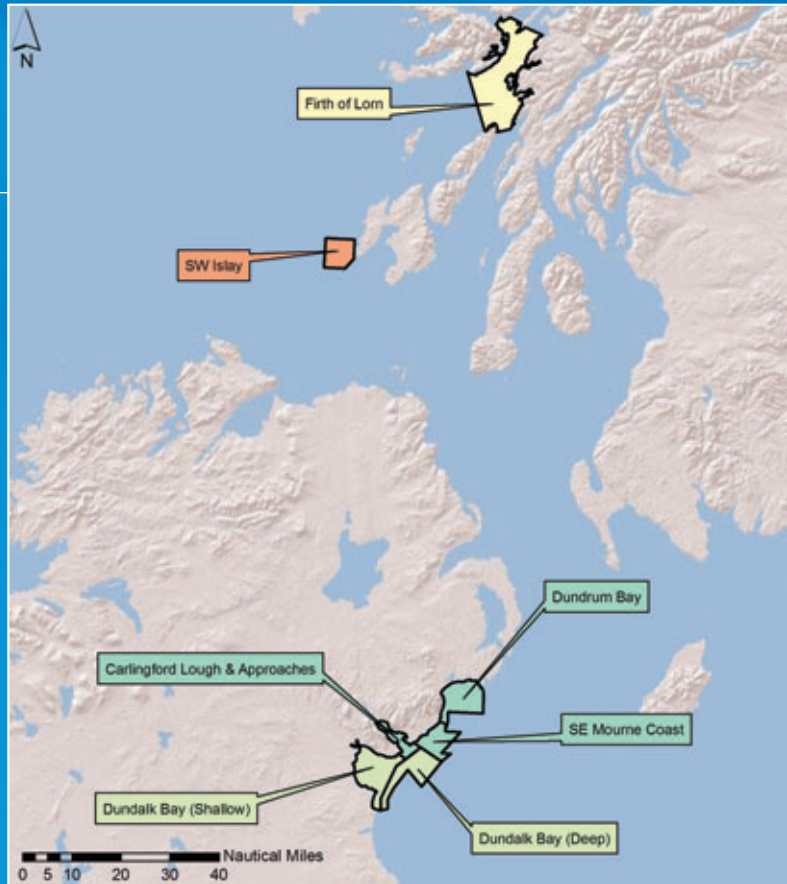
Project News

Exploring the Secrets of the Sea

Have you ever wondered how the data for the navigational charts of the seabed is obtained? Mapping the land is a difficult and cumbersome task, but what about mapping the seabed, when everything is concealed under water?

High-quality bathymetric information is essential for producing accurate navigational charts and for the effective management and conservation of the marine environment. Despite recent technological advances, some 'current' nautical charts still include data from the mid 19th century when depth was measured by lowering lead lines to the seabed at wide intervals.

The INIS Hydro project, led by the UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), has received £3.2 million from the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme to produce a standardised hydrographic survey specification and accurate high-resolution bathymetric datasets, for seven important seabed areas to the east of Ireland/Northern Ireland and off the west coast of Scotland. A total of 1400 km² will be surveyed by the research vessels fitted with multi-beam sonar technology.



Multi-beam sonar is a technology used by hydrographic surveyors to determine the depth of water and the nature of the seabed. It can be mounted onto the hull of survey vessels and works by sending broad acoustic pulses to the seabed which 'bounce back' - the travel time and angle of the return beams provide information about the depth and type of the seabed.

The project was officially launched in July at the Belfast Harbour Commissioner's Office.

For information on the INIS Hydro project contact Dr Anuschka Miller; Scottish Association for Marine Science on anuschka.miller@sams.ac.uk

£3 million SOS Programme Launched in West Belfast

Project News



Pictured at the launch of the Sharing Our Space Programme at the Colin Allotment site, Colinglen Road in West Belfast are (l-r) Sylvia Gordon, Director of Groundwork NI, Minister for Agriculture Michelle O'Neill MLA, Annie Armstrong, Manager Colin Neighbourhood Partnership and the Mayor of Lisburn Brian Heading.

An eight and a half acre site on the Colinglen Road in West Belfast has been transformed into a community allotment site with over 30 plots. For months, 'grow your own' enthusiasts tended to their plots and finally reaped the fruits of their labour when they used the produce from the allotments as the basis for the Community Harvest Festival.

The Festival was organised by the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership and it provided the perfect opportunity for members of the local community to have a look at the new amenities and the future plans for the site. The Minister for Agriculture & Rural Development, Michelle O'Neill MLA officially launched the Community Festival, which had music and a live cookery demonstration with fresh produce from the allotments, saying: "I'm delighted to launch the Colin Glen Allotments and the 'Sharing Our Space' (SOS) programme. These allotments have brought an underused piece of land back into the community. The site has been transformed with over 30 plots and has created a valuable asset which I hope will benefit local people for years to come."

The Colin Glen Allotments are part of a three year, PEACE III funded initiative led by Groundwork NI. It aims to promote the use of contested and derelict spaces as community allotments, in order to encourage a shared use and shared ownership of the space by the local communities.

Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, SEUPB welcomed the initiative: "This project will make an important contribution to the transformation of spaces affected by the conflict by addressing the issues of segregation and dereliction in the areas targeted. It goes a step further by directly engaging the local people in the process of physical transformation of their area and allowing them to benefit from this transformation from the beginning."

The Sharing Our Space programme will be delivered in seven neighbourhoods across Northern Ireland and Ireland: Newtownbutler (Co. Fermanagh); Ballynahinch (Co. Down); Rasharkin (Co. Antrim); Castleblayney (Co. Monaghan); Westland (North Belfast); Colin Glen (West Belfast) and Blacks Road (West Belfast).



“Summer is really long.” This is a statement that most people would probably not subscribe to but it is a pressing reality for Edel Godfrey, the mother of a fourteen years old son with Asperger’s syndrome.

Eoin and Edel Godfrey at their home in Derry-Londonderry.

Photo: Michael Cooper.

Turning the Curve

Real Life Interviews

Last summer, Foyle Tuition was successful in securing a tender from the cross-border health partnership, CAWT, to organise a week-long, activity-based scheme for children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the Western Trust area. Edel's son Eoin was one of the participants. For Edel this represented an excellent opportunity: "Eoin doesn't have many friends and it is very difficult to get him to do anything that involves socializing or activities outside the home. This scheme presented a great opportunity for him to do different things and be himself, without having to worry about how other children would react," she explained.

Edel also described how this type of activity can help the family cope with the summer period: "Activities like these really break up the summer and without it, it would have been much harder. Eoin cannot just go outside and meet up with other children as his two sisters do."

Eoin participated in a week long ASD Summer Scheme at St. Joseph's Secondary School in Londonderry. Initially, he was not overly excited with the prospect of having to abandon his computer games for a week but by the end of the first day he had changed his mind: "I participated because mummy said it was a good idea. I thought it would be boring and that it would take time away from my holidays and playing games but in the end it was very good. We played sports and did a drama performance that we had to prepare for. We also did art and created the set for the play ourselves."

"My favourite thing was playing with friends. I met up with Matthew a few times since the summer. He came to my house and we played together. I don't normally meet up with friends from school," he continued.

Both the art and drama activities were extremely beneficial, in the mother's opinion: "Eoin got to do lots of other things he does not do at home or at school. Things like messy play with lots of tactile activities are very enjoyable for children like him. It also helped that

the staff were so well prepared. Not being as emotionally involved as the parents, they are more able to let the children try different things, fail and try again without being as protective as parents would be. This really builds the children's confidence."

Even though it was only for a week, Edel says that she could immediately detect improvements in her son's behaviour. "I noticed quite a few improvements. Eoin gained a bit of independence and it enabled him to develop communication and life skills. Simple things like taking a packed lunch instead of eating in the canteen are important for him to become accustomed to change. The drama performance was also an achievement. Children with an ASD are very literal and find it difficult to understand and talk about feelings or pick up on facial expressions. To be able to communicate via the medium of drama was a massive step for them," she warrants.

For the family as a whole, small activities like this also make all the difference. "To the families this offers some respite and allows us to spend some quality time with the girls. Normally the focus is on Eoin and we don't get to do the simple things that the girls enjoy doing like shopping, which is a hurdle for their brother. It also allows us to break the routine of telling him what to do all the time. Children with an ASD have difficulties dealing with the simple rules of social interaction and it is extremely difficult to motivate them to do different things so as parents we end up always being the one pushing and pulling and forcing him to do things. It is tiring and also defines the relationship by taking away the fun from the mother/child relationship. This week really helped because Eoin had the chance to do things outside the house with other people and then just relax at home with us", she explained.

The 'Turning the Curve' Autism Spectrum Disorder summer scheme was part of the 'Putting Patients, Clients and Families First' programme, an INTERREG IVA funded project led by CAWT (Co-operation and Working Together).

News & Info

¼ of a Million People Cross the Peace Bridge

Over 250,000 people have crossed the Peace Bridge in Londonderry since its inauguration on 25 June 2011.

Michael Gallagher, Ilex's Strategy and Regeneration Manager explained: "The Peace Bridge was given significant funding from the EU's PEACE III Programme because of the way it would make very real changes to the look and feel of the city. Now, just four months after its launch, the bridge has exceeded expectations with over a quarter of a million pedestrians and cyclists using it to access St. Columb's Park, the Waterside and city side".

Highlighting the significance of the announcement, the Mayor, Alderman Maurice Devenney said: "This is great news for the city and proof of how the Peace Bridge has won the hearts and minds of the people in Derry-Londonderry. This year celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Halloween Carnival and, for the first time ever, people were able to view the fireworks display from the Peace Bridge".

The Bridge measures 235 metres bank to bank and 312 metres in total, and has a gradient of 1/50. The busiest day of the week is Saturday, followed by Wednesday, with peak time around 3pm.

Pedestrian movements are recorded using a number of methods, including hand held counters during the Peace Bridge opening weekend, random sample counts over five minute periods and counts from a static multi-directional digital counter which records the number of movements east and west.

SEUPB Outlines how to 'Reach the Margins' at Open Days 2011

As part of the 9th European Week of Regions and Cities, also known as 'OPEN DAYS 2011' the Special EU Programmes Body co-ordinated a workshop in partnership with Agnes Lindemans, Head of Unit, DG Regio.

Called 'Reaching the Margins – Building Inclusiveness within hard to reach communities,' the seminar explored the different approaches and methodologies used by various organisations to connect with marginalised social, ethnic and religious groups across Europe.

Martin McMullan, from Youth Action Northern Ireland, outlined the techniques used by his organisation to give young men the skills and confidence needed to deal with and avoid sectarian based violent activity. Co-financed by the EU's PEACE III Programme the various work programmes developed by Youth Action NI have, over the past decade, made a strong impact in encouraging cross-community engagement and interaction across the region.

Zorica Angelovska-Kovachevikj, Head of Sector for the Co-operation with Churches, Religious Communities and Groups within the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was also invited to speak at the workshop. She highlighted the role that the Macedonian conflicts of 2011 had on exacerbating religious tension between the Macedonian (mainly Orthodox) and ethnic Albanian (mainly Muslim) populations.

Zamfir Todor from Habitat for Humanity outlined the importance of housing in the successful integration of the Roma community, based in Romania. As part of his presentation he provided comprehensive details about a housing initiative, which encourages Roma families to participate in the construction of their own homes.

Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Witnesses Ground-breaking Peace Work

Members of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement were recently given detailed insight into how the European Union is supporting peace and reconciliation work across Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland.

Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), which is responsible for the management of the European Union's PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes, briefed a number of the committee members on the impact that both programmes have had to date.

"Following its official launch in 2007 the PEACE III Programme has allocated approximately €260 million worth of support to a wide range of projects across the region," commented Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB.

"The INTERREG IVA Programme has been designed to create a more prosperous and sustainable cross-border region and is worth €256 million intended to support enterprise and business development as well as greater levels of public sector collaboration and infrastructure development," he continued.

The Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement was established in October 2007 and is made up of representatives from both Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann. It is responsible for all issues connected with Ireland's role as a signatory to the Good Friday Agreement and any ongoing developments in its implementation.

Commenting on the visit, Dominic Hannigan TD and elected Chairman Joint Committee said: "I am delighted to have seen evidence of the very substantial investment from the European Union's PEACE III Programme creating effective results in North Belfast. The work of the SEUPB demonstrates how we can maximise success by working in cooperation with each other".

Following the presentation by the SEUPB the Oireachtas Joint Committee members visited Groundwork NI to hear about the 'Reconciling Communities through Regeneration' (RCTR) project. They also visited the new 'peace gate' on the peace wall that cuts through the Alexandra Park in North Belfast, one of the main achievements of the project.

For more information on the work of the SEUPB, please visit www.seupb.eu



(l-r) Richard Rogers, Project Team Manager with Groundwork NI; Kate Clarke, Community Relations/Interface Worker with the North Belfast Interface Network and Dominic Hannigan TD, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

News & Info

Conference Highlights Success of Cross-border Work

Joe O'Reilly, TD, opened a major two-day conference on 'Cross-border Training and Impact Assessment in Ireland and Europe' in the Farnham Estate, Cavan on 27 and 28 October. Supported by the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme the event was organised by the Centre for Cross-Border Studies alongside the Special EU Programmes Body.

Attended by over 130 people from border regions in 12 different European countries the event was designed to exchange good practice in cross-border cooperation and examine ways of determining whether a cross-border approach to tackling a particular problem is the most appropriate one.

On the first day of the conference a number of INTERREG IVA funded projects, including Tradelinks II, Women Into Public Life and Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) delivered interactive workshops covering a wide-variety of themes such as business mentoring, the role of women in politics and cross-border health provision.

The conference agenda was developed in partnership with the TEIN (Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network) group of cross-border research and training institutes. Countries represented at the conference included France, Germany, Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, Italy, Spain, the French Caribbean, the UK and Ireland.

On the second day of the event Dr José Antonio Ruiz de Casas of the Directorate-General for Regional Policy (DG Regio) of the European Commission launched a new 'Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross Border Cooperation', which has been developed

by the Centre for Cross Border Studies and the Euro-Institut in Kehl, Germany.

The toolkit has been specifically designed to help programme and project promoters applying for EU funding to determine whether a cross-border approach is the appropriate way to tackle a particular social, economic or environmental problem and, if so, to identify the 'added value' of such cross-border co-operation.

Speaking at the event Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body, said: "This a highly worthwhile event which has been designed to highlight the crucial role that strategic cross-border co-operation plays in helping to improve the lives of people living within border regions across Europe. I welcome the new 'impact assessment toolkit' which has the potential to enhance future funding applications and identify innovative approaches to solving common cross-border problems."



Photo: Michael Cooper

Good Practice in the North East

Project News

The North East PEACE III funded Sports and Leisure programme has been selected as a good practice case study by the EU Sports Commission 'Social inclusion in and through sport' programme. The programme identifies and establishes good practice sports projects which can be applied across other European countries to address social inclusion through sport.

The programme was established to investigate good practice in the field of sport in three particular areas: the fight against doping in sports; the promotion of social inclusion in and through sport and promoting volunteering in sport.

Ninety one sports-focused projects applied to participate in the EU Sports programme with only five successful applicants. The Ulster Sports Academy, who is delivering the Sports and Leisure programme on behalf of the North East PEACE III Partnership, submitted the Cultural Awareness training initiative within the Sports and Leisure programme as a case study. The application was accepted and the Cultural Awareness training initiative is being highlighted as good practice in the promotion of social inclusion in sport.

The Cultural Awareness initiative uses sport as a tool to promote the shared experience of different cultures. It was developed to ensure that Sports and Leisure programme participants developed a better understanding of the reasons why racism and sectarianism exist. The initiative also identifies how a programme of sport and leisure activity can assist in the future development of integration in sports.

The North East PEACE III Sport and Leisure programme has enjoyed considerable success since its launch. The programme was also granted the London 2012 Inspire Mark which recognises innovative and exceptional projects that are directly inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Photo: Michael Cooper.

As part of the Sports and Leisure project, the North East Partnership organised a Sport Comes 2 Town event in Ballymoney in November 2010.

Transnational and Inter-regional Programmes Update

Cohesion Policy for 2014 – 2020

In October 2011, the European Commission published draft proposals on the future architecture of cohesion policy for the 2014 – 2020 period. The new proposals are designed to reinforce the strategic dimension of the policy and to ensure that EU investment is targeted on Europe's long-term goals for growth and jobs (the Europe 2020 strategy). The draft regulations propose a focus on fewer investment priorities in line with the Europe 2020 objectives and clear targets will be set to ensure that regions reach their goals. The draft regulations will be the subject of discussion and negotiation between the European Parliament and the national governments. Final agreement on the shape of the funding programmes is not likely before the end of 2013.

Transnational Conference

As the INTERREG IVB Programmes are reaching full commitment levels and in an effort to be at the forefront of the debate on future funding, a joint transnational conference was held in Poland in September. This was the first time that the thirteen INTERREG IVB Transnational Programmes operating under European Regional Development Fund came together to host such a conference. The focus of the conference was on how transnational co-operation can help to improve the future in European regions. The conference highlighted the results that the programmes have made and their potential to make a positive and lasting contribution to the Europe 2020 targets of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.



Atlantox – Testing the Waters

Project News

Climate change with the associated rise in ocean temperatures is likely to result in changes to the distribution of phytoplankton communities and toxin production in our seas. This has the potential to affect marine ecosystems and impact upon food safety, as well as economic sectors such as shellfish production or tourism.

The Atlantox project, which has received €1.8m in European funding, is a transnational Atlantic Area project to assess the impact of the rise in ocean temperatures on marine ecosystems on toxin reproduction. It is co-ordinated by the Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, with partners from France, Ireland, Spain and Portugal.

The project focuses on acquiring pure forms of the new marine toxins and contaminated material to enable the partners to develop a method of rapid detection and effective control, with a view to protect public health and support the shellfish industry.

In Northern Ireland, international conferences of Food Safety and Traceability, Climate Change and Aquaculture have been organised and hosted by the Queen's University Belfast (QUB). The outcomes of the project have been presented to UK regulatory authorities and the Shellfish Industry at stakeholder meetings hosted by the Agri-Food Biosciences Institute (AFBI). As project partners their principal roles have been the

development of screening and confirmatory methods for marine toxins, as well as the validation of tests developed by partners in the project.

The occurrence of marine toxins previously unknown in European waters has recently been reported, together with associated cases of human intoxication. This presents a problem because whereas methods of detection are available for toxins commonly found in European waters, no reliable methods for detecting and controlling emerging toxins are as yet available.

The effects are already visible and worrying, requiring actions to ensure optimum levels of food safety for people in coastal areas and to minimize further impact of the consequences in other sectors such as fisheries or tourism. Toxic episodes are a major public health problem whose impact is moved to areas such as tourism and a reduced consumption of seafood. Many local economies are subject to uncertainty due to their reliance upon live resources that experience intense natural variability.

The main objective of this project is to support and accelerate the development and introduction of a proper and efficient method of fast alternative controlling based on antibodies and functional tests for biotoxins.

For further information: www.atlantox.com

'Journeys Out' Explored our Relationship with the Past

Over the past two years, community activists representing all shades of political opinion from across Northern Ireland and the border region took part in a groundbreaking project with the aim of exploring how communities collectively address the legacy of the conflict in Northern Ireland.

The 'Journeys Out' project has drawn to a close, with several community leaders from across the political divide, celebrating the success of this pioneering PEACE III funded initiative at a closing event in September.

Spearheaded by INCORE, (International Conflict Research Institute at the University of Ulster), in partnership with Intercomm Ireland, the Peace and Reconciliation Group and the Glencree Centre for Reconciliation, the initiative engaged 40 community leaders throughout Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland in the debate about different approaches to 'dealing with the past'.

Its objective was to facilitate through these community leaders an exploration of people's relationship with the past within their local communities through community research and workshops. There was also an international dimension through community research and study visits to South Africa.

At the closing event, Prof Brandon Hamber, Director at INCORE explained how the programme was shaped to help participants

explore the opportunities and challenges which have come with the transition from conflict to peace: "A training programme helped skill participants to discuss the issue of dealing with the past in their communities. A series of project policy seminars also provided opportunities to initiate dialogue and sharing between community practitioners and policy influencers. Both these activities highlighted the ongoing need to address the legacy of the past in society."

Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB congratulated everyone involved in delivering the project for their excellent work: "The engagement with the community leaders that 'Journeys Out' developed was extremely important to understand how the legacy of the past affects communities in their everyday life. This understanding of our shared perception of the past is essential if we are to build a more positive future."



Prof Brandon Hamber speaking at the 'Journeys Out' event in September.

Irish-Scottish Offshore Renewable Energy Grid

Project News

A report published recently confirms that a subsea grid connecting Scottish, Irish and Northern Irish offshore renewable sites is feasible.

This exhaustive report was the subject of a two-year project funded by the INTERREG IVA Programme, the Irish-Scottish Links on Energy Study (ISLES), to investigate the financial, regulatory and technical challenges of building an offshore interconnected transmission network and subsea electricity grid to support generation of electricity from renewable sources in coastal waters off and in the North Channel/Irish Sea area.

Despite broad agreement on the huge potential benefits of a new electricity grid under the Irish Sea connecting power sources on Scottish, Irish and Northern Irish electricity networks, it was essential to gather a vast body of data on the challenges and potential costs involved. This was the objective of the ISLES study, a collaboration between the Scottish Government, the Northern Ireland Executive and the Government of Ireland.

Development of an interconnected transmission network within the decade would help revitalise the renewables sector, create jobs in the eligible region and generate revenues by exporting surplus electricity to Europe.

The report which was launched at the National Economic Forum/ISLES Conference at Hampden Park, Glasgow, highlights these benefits and addresses the also considerable challenges that an initiative of this dimension would involve. It also demonstrates that the results would be positive and would have a significant impact for the future of the energy markets in the region.

The event included speeches by First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond, Pat Rabbitte, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Government of Ireland, Arlene Foster Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, Northern Ireland Executive, and Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB.

For further information - The executive summary of the ISLES Report will be published on the ISLES website in due course: www.islesproject.eu



Pictured (l-r) are Pat Colgan, Chief executive SEUPB, John Swinney MSP, Arlene Foster MLA, Fergus Ewing MSP and Pat Rabbitte TD.

Picture (l-r) deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness MP MLA, Prof Seán McConville, Dr Anna Bryson and First Minister Peter Robinson MLA.

Project News



First and Deputy First Ministers Launch Oral History Project

The First and deputy First Ministers, Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness, recently launched in Northern Ireland a three year initiative which will provide training for citizens in the border area to collect local stories about people's experiences and memories of conflict and peace.

The Peace Process: Layers of Meaning project will involve the collection and archive 100 heritage interviews with key individuals involved in peace-making across all areas of life in the last 40 years. In addition, the project will create opportunities for people at local level who have not yet told their stories of the peace process to be heard. It is led by researchers at Queen Mary, University of London in partnership with Trinity College Dublin and Dundalk Institute of Technology.

Project Co-Director, Dr Anna Bryson, said during the event at Stormont: "The aim of the project is to capture voices from every part of society which can provide authentic insights into the challenges of the past. Interviews will not be confined to the corridors of power."

The project, which was awarded €1.1 million by the EU's PEACE III Programme, will run three distinct sub-projects in the border

area to explore this layer of interviews. It is envisaged that one of these will straddle the eastern corridor, a second will be based in Fermanagh, and a third will focus on a workplace – one suggestion being the shirt factories in Derry-Londonderry.

The project team is acutely aware of the sensitivities and challenges involved in talking about the past. This is sensitive territory but the team's work has won high praise for its sound, legal and ethical approach as well as its technical expertise, which builds on years of interviews carried out on equally sensitive topics.

This oral history project will therefore help to build confidence within and between communities. Professor Seán McConville, Project Director, stressed how important it is to carry out this work with a profound sense of responsibility: "This is a project of prime importance and enormous promise. We hope that it will make a substantial contribution to the quality of community life in the border areas and beyond."

For more information contact Dr Frances Morton on frances.morton@dkit.ie or +353 42 937 0420.

Nature Has No Borders

Project News

“Biodiversity is the lifeblood of our nation. It is our life support system, providing countless benefits from clean air, to clean water, flood defences and climate control to our people and all of this for free.”

These were the words of Alderman Arnold Hatch, Chairman of East Border Region (EBR), launching a new EU funded project, Action for Biodiversity, on the shores of Lough Neagh.

Action for Biodiversity is a three-year project led by EBR, which aims to develop and successfully deliver a regional and cross-border biodiversity framework for the region which comprises ten councils in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The framework will engage local authorities, businesses and communities, to raise awareness and produce and implement plans for the protection of priority habitats and species. Ultimately, the project aims to demonstrate to all its stakeholders a clear and measurable link between a strong and vibrant economy and a protected and enhanced natural environment.

Operationally, the project sets out to overcome the inconsistency in the way biodiversity is regarded across the region. Some local authorities currently have little provision for their wildlife resources while others are implementing complex Biodiversity Action Plans.

“The impact of the border on biodiversity has not been quantified but the difference in designation and protection regimes locally and nationally has created a mismatch of treatment for many sites straddling the border. We will address this mismatch and ensure there is a consistency in biodiversity across the ten local authorities,” Alderman Hatch said.

Speaking at the launch, celebrity TV presenter and biodiversity enthusiast, Dale Treadwell said that nature knows no boundaries.

“A trout doesn’t know which side of a human border it is on. A hare will cross the limit of a local authority in ignorance. And yet the practical protection offered to these species, the way their habitats are cared for and even the knowledge of their importance is highly dependant on where they find themselves,” he enthused.

For information on the Action for Biodiversity project contact Sharon Digby on sharon@eastborderregion.com



A Seashore Safari organised on Annalong Beach, Co Down, was one of the 35 events organised by the initiative over the summer months. Pictured are some of the 20 people who joined marine biologist Danielle Begley on a search of the fabulous tide pools.

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:

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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: Teresa Lennon at the SEUPB Belfast office:
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