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

SPRING 2011

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



Lish & Gerry at the Shrine
Drama performance reveals good relations in football

Challenge Hate Crime
New tutoring service to reduce number of hate crime offenses

Environmental Focus
Over £20 million allocated to environmental projects

ConneXions Project
Cedar Foundation provides social network to people with disabilities



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Programmes 2007-2013

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Welcome

Project News

- Page 4 €7 million EU Funding Package for the Central Border Region
Page 5 Famous Gobbins Coastal Path and Sliabh Liag Visitors' Centre to be Restored
Page 6 EU Funded Projects Make an Eco-Impact
Page 7 PEACE III Initiative Targets Hate Crime

Real life Interview

- Page 8-9 Real Life Interview – Cross-community work is 'just Normal'

News & Info

- Page 10 Certified Mediation Training in Leitrim
Page 11 EU 'Peace Bridge' Launch Confirmed
Page 11 Major PEACE III Event 2011
Page 12 Communicating the Benefits of European Funding
Page 13 SEUPB Lead Partner Seminar

Project News

- Page 14 Securing the Future of Europe's Waterways
Page 15 Transnational and Inter-regional Programmes Update
Page 16 Lish and Gerry at the Shrine' -
How Two Football Fans Defied Sectarianism in Sport
Page 17 Peace Process - Layers of Meaning
Page 18 QUB Tackles Invasive Species to Promote Bio-diversity
Page 19 ConneXions That Matter

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

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

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“Foreword”



Special EU Programmes Body
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Welcome to the spring edition of Your EU! The New Year has brought with it the launch of a number of new projects and initiatives supported through the European Regional Development Fund.

These include a unique cross-border tourism venture called the ‘Gobbins and Sliabh Liag’ project which will further enhance the Causeway Coastal Path and help to preserve two distinct areas of outstanding natural beauty located in Counties Antrim and Donegal. Another project, funded under the INTERREG IVA Programme, will halt the spread of invasive and damaging plant life within our countryside and help to restore native biodiversity across the region.

A number of new projects supported by the PEACE III Programme have also been launched over the past few months. These include a unique programme, managed by the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO), which will help to reduce the re-offending rate of individuals convicted of race related and sectarian hate crime.

Another PEACE III funded project, managed by the Leitrim PEACE Partnership, will provide mediation training to create a team of accredited professionals whose job it will be to promote greater levels of peace and reconciliation within their local area, on a cross-community basis.

The construction of the £14.6m Peace Bridge across the River Foyle in Derry-Londonderry is also coming to a much anticipated conclusion. A weekend long series of celebratory events are currently being planned to mark the official launch of the bridge, which will take place in late June.

Programme Monitoring Committee meetings for both Programmes are scheduled to take place in June and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the committee members for their continued help and support.



The INTERREG IVB and INTERREG IVC Programmes are also continuing to attract more and more projects. To date 38 projects, in receipt of approximately €7m of EU support have been approved, 19 of which have Northern Irish and Irish partners.

As we move past the halfway point of the current programming period I am pleased to announce that 74% of PEACE III and 63% of INTERREG IVA funding has been allocated.

This success is, to a large extent, thanks to the ongoing commitment of the Steering Committee members as they play an integral role in the application assessment process.

As we move towards the summer months I look forward to further successful applications, allocations of support and to sharing more of our project success stories with you.

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body

Project News

Celebrating the funding announcement (l-r) Brendan Hegarty, Chief Executive Fermanagh District Council; Cllr Stephen Huggett, Chairman Fermanagh District Council; Howard Keery, Director of the Joint Technical Secretariat SEUPB; Arlene Foster, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment; Cllr Fergus McQuillan, ICBAN Board Member; Cllr Robert Turner, ICBAN Chair.



€7 million EU Funding Package for the Central Border Region

The Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) recently launched two flagship projects in the Central Border Region. St. Angelo Airport and Innovation Enterprise are the two additional initiatives to the three projects already managed by the cross-border group: Traded Services (Feasibility Study), HATCH and Central Border Spatial Planning Initiative.

ICBAN, in partnership with its 10 member Councils, has developed a Multi-Annual Plan for the central border region which focuses on issues which are common across the region. The plan sets out the actions deemed necessary to encourage enterprise and innovation, to develop the tourism sector, and to ensure that infrastructure meets the specific needs of the region and its people.

The workspace development at St. Angelo airport is a 37,000ft² (3,438 m²) standalone unit which will accommodate a fixed-wing aircraft maintenance firm, complementing the various helicopter maintenance facilities already available at the Airport. The project will be led by Fermanagh District Council as owners of St. Angelo Airport.

This is an important investment in infrastructure for the cross-border region and will help attract business investment to the area, not just within Northern Ireland but also to Ireland. The development is due to commence in early 2011 with completion expected by the end of the year.

Innovation Enterprise is a £3.23 million initiative led by Omagh District Council to create an Innovation Growth centre at Omagh Enterprise Company and a Technology Enterprise Centre at Leitrim County Enterprise Board. The initiative is expected to create up to 250 jobs within the 35 businesses that the new facilities will harbour.

In total, over €7 million has been allocated to ICBAN under the European Union's Cross-border Co-operation INTERREG IVA Programme, covering five projects and also management costs.

Shane Campbell, ICBAN CEO, stressed the importance of the Programme for the region: "The launch of the ICBAN region INTERREG IVA Programme is the fruition of three years' work and includes key strategic infrastructural and developmental projects that will enhance enterprise, tourism and public sector collaboration within the cross-border region.

Speaking on behalf of the SEUPB, Mr Howard Keery, Director of the Joint Technical Secretariat, said: "Under ICBAN's Multi-annual Plan a diverse and innovative range of projects have successfully secured European Union INTERREG IVA funding. This assistance represents a high level of investment and will help to ensure greater levels of economic development and cross-border co-operation within the Central Border Region."

Famous Gobbins Coastal Path and Sliabh Liag Visitors' Centre to be Restored

Project News

Two major tourist attractions in Northern Ireland and Ireland will be restored and revamped with the assistance of European funding. The famous Gobbins coastal path at Islandmagee and the visitors' facilities at Sliabh Liag in County Donegal are part of a major cross-border initiative, which will receive over £5.5 million worth of funding from the INTERREG IVA Programme.

The Gobbins cliff path, which was built in 1902 and in its heyday attracted more visitors than the Giant's Causeway, will cost approximately £6 million to restore. Approximately £3.5 million of the funding will be provided through the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, with further assistance from the Department of Enterprise. Larne Borough Council has allocated £2 million to the Gobbins element of the project and a further £200,000 of funding has been made available by Ulster Garden Villages.

Meanwhile, a new visitor centre at Bunglass / Sliabh Liag in County Donegal will also receive funding under the cross-border initiative. With the highest sea cliffs in Europe, Sliabh Liag is already a popular visitor attraction in County Donegal attracting 120,000 visitors annually. The new project aims to develop a world-class visitor centre, improve access on the key routes around the mountain, and further promote the site as a hiking and hill-walking destination. The project will also strengthen linkages between communities and stakeholders in both the Sliabh Liag and Larne areas.

Howard Keery, from the SEUPB highlighted the economic significance of the project: "This project provides an excellent fit with the objectives of the INTERREG IVA Programme to support development in the region by promoting higher levels of tourism. It takes advantage of some of the region's most extraordinary landscape to create a welcome addition to the

overall tourism product offering in Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland."

The original Gobbins path was designed by Berkley Dean Wise for the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company as a commercial venture to attract passengers to the rail link between Belfast and Whitehead. It was almost a mile long and was linked by a series of spectacular metal bridges which were incredible feats of engineering at the time. Today, the path is in a state of disrepair with many of the original metalwork structures and rails damaged or collapsed because of rust and erosion caused by the sea. It has been closed to the public since 1954.

The schedule of works on both locations and their timeline will require careful planning to take account of the breeding season of the bird population which inhabit the cliffs at both sites and the seasonal challenges of working in a cliff face environment.

For further information contact the Northeast Partnership at nepni@ballymena.gov.uk



The sea cliffs in Larne where the Gobbins Cliff Path is located.

EU Funded Projects make an Eco-Impact

A number of new eco-focused projects have recently been awarded assistance under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme.

To date more than £20 million worth of funding has been allocated under the Programme to projects and initiatives which will help protect the environment and safeguard bio-diversity.

Supported under the infrastructure theme of INTERREG IVA these projects are all cross-border in nature and have been designed to create a more joined up approach to common environmental and energy issues faced by Northern Ireland, Ireland and western Scotland.

For example, the new £4 million Tellus Border geological survey project will undertake innovative research for use in the scientific assessment and management of wetlands, soil-carbon and ground pollution across Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland.

This information will help better inform government on sustainable land use in future planning decisions as well as pinpoint potential sources of pollution. Project partners include Queen's University Belfast, the Dundalk Institute of Technology and the Geology Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) based within the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment.

Another £1.48 million EU funded initiative called H.E.L.P. or the 'Halting Environmental Loss Project' will help protect a number of native bird species currently under threat across the region. It will also make a strong contribution towards the successful delivery of the UK's 'Biodiversity Action Plan' which seeks to conserve, protect and enhance the natural environment.

Upon its completion the H.E.L.P. project will create a network for the sharing of best practice recovery work, to ensure the long-term sustainability of many important bird species, as well as enhance wildlife tourism.



(L-r) Howard Keery, SEUPB, Dick Strawbridge, James Robinson, Stuart Housden, David Lindo and Alan Lauder at the launch of the HELP project.

PEACE III Initiative Targets Hate Crime

Project News



(L-r) Max Murray, Director of Operations, NI Prison Service, Olwen Lyner, CEO of NIACRO and Minister for Justice, David Ford MLA launch the Challenge Hate Crime Project, a unique pilot programme aimed at reaching prisoners convicted of hate crimes.

Prisoners convicted of hate crimes in Northern Ireland will receive special tutoring to help prevent them from re-offending.

As part of a PEACE III funded project, individuals that have been convicted of hate crimes will be challenged about their attitude and participate in a support programme aimed at reducing the likelihood of re-offending. The Prison Service led pilot project is the first to tackle sectarianism in this way and to combine the management of offenders with research on the nature and extent of hate crime in Northern Ireland.

The project is delivered by the Northern Ireland Prison Service and the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO).

Launching the project, Justice Minister David Ford said: "Hate crime is insidious, and in many cases an unfortunate legacy of our recent past. It can have terrible consequences for both victim and perpetrator, as well as affecting whole communities. It is good to see the Prison Service working with one of our most progressive local charities in this pro-active project to reduce hate crime." Olwen Lyner, chief executive of NIACRO, said that hate crime

should not be tolerated: "We believe a strong model of intervention could be very effective in reducing the rate of re-offending in this group of prisoners. More importantly, we hope the Challenge Hate Crime project will result in fewer victims of hate crime and that it will contribute to a safer society."

In 2009/2010, the number of hate related crimes increased in three of the six hate crime types, when compared to the year before. Sectarian crimes were up by 247 offences (24.3%), disability motivated crimes were up by 13 (46.4%) and transphobic crimes increased by two, which doubled the number of occurrences.

In the remaining categories, there was a decrease with racist crimes down by 59 (7.7%), homophobic crimes down by 22 (16.4%) and faith/religion motivated crimes down by 20 (57.1%). It is important to note, however, that even though there was a significant decrease in racial hate crime (59) this represents less than 8% of the total in this category, meaning that racially motivated crime is still very prominent in our society.

For further information contact Monica Fitzpatrick at NIACRO.



Heather Boyd, treasurer of the Killelagh's Church Group.

Cross-Community Work is 'Just Normal'

Real Life Interviews

A small community group in Swatragh, County Londonderry, has been making headlines due to the success of their cross-community initiatives. Heather Boyd from 'Killelagh and St John's Community Association' is one of the people who have been instrumental to this success.

The cross-community group first became involved with community work when it organised some fundraising activities for repairs to St John's Roman Catholic Church. After the success of this project the group began to raise funds for Killelagh Church of Ireland Church. The two churches sit in the heart of Swatragh, a village of nearly 100% catholic/nationalist identity and growing up just outside the village, Heather could witness first-hand the prejudice and distance between people from both communities.

One of the activities she was involved in was a joint initiative between the community group and the local GAA club. In the spirit of their long-standing co-operation, the club made its grounds available for a fundraising concert organised to raise funds for a new roof for the church. The fact that the GAA club was making its grounds available to raise the £60,000 pounds necessary to fix the roof of a protestant church caught the attention of the media, with a story appearing in the Belfast Telegraph. This attention surprised the group since, according to Heather, "it was just another normal event like so many that we had organised before."

Heather's objective, however, was to do youth-focused cross-community work, beyond fundraising. The opportunity arose through PEACE III funding, with the support of Magherafelt District Council and the South West PEACE III Partnership.

Successful in their bid for funding, the committee set out to organise the 'Sport a Mix' event to introduce children to sports that they do not normally have access to given their connotation with one community or the other. Over the three-day event, children from the local schools had the chance to try Gaelic games, hockey, football, athletics and rugby. The event was split into two days of sporting activities with the schools, and the third day culminated in a huge family day, during which the school children performed a drama production and participated in a range of fun activities with their new friends from each school.

The committee was surprised and overwhelmed with the support and attendance of the wider communities on the day of the event with around 400 people from all community backgrounds attending. A proud Heather mentioned that the best reward was seeing how people were willing to participate: "Some parents expressed their fears and doubts in attending a cross-community event such as this but they still let their children come. We were really pleased with the turnout and the children were so happy with the activities and the new friends they had made!"

Heather's ambition for the future is to set up a cross-community youth club in Swatragh, where young people can meet, socialise and spend time together without being associated with a specific community. She feels that the only options and facilities available to young people to spend their free time are often divided along community lines. "Even though I recognise the benefits of sport, for example, too often in Northern Ireland, the sport children choose to practice can pigeon-hole them", she explains. Heather is currently involved with "Maghera Youth Connect", a youth group that she established in the town of Maghera, also with the help of PEACE III funding.

News & Info

Certified Mediation Training in Leitrim

Mediation is a voluntary, confidential process that helps people in a conflict or dispute to communicate constructively and respectfully with each other and work towards resolving their difficulties in a way that meets the needs of both parties.

The Mediator supports the parties in identifying their issues and needs, how those needs can be addressed and how the parties might come to an agreement. Mediation provides a confidential and safe environment for the parties to voice their issues and concerns and engage in a conversation with a view to achieve a possible compromise solution.

In October last, County Leitrim PEACE III Partnership commissioned Consensus Mediation to train 15 individuals in Leitrim as Mediators to work with the target groups of the European Union's PEACE III Programme, which funds the project. The course aimed to give participants the required level of generic skills, knowledge and attitudes to enable them to successfully complete assessment at certified level with the Mediators' Institute of Ireland (MII).

The content of the training included knowledge of mediation theory, including principles, practice, styles and methods. During the course, participants had the opportunity to explore their own styles and approaches to dealing with conflict, and acquire theoretical understanding of conflict-managing principles and conflict-resolution.

Models of good practice of peace-building and mediation in this area were also explored. Participants had an opportunity to practice skills in simulated role plays and the course assessment consisted of a role play exercise of each individual mediating a

case for one hour. Following successful completion, trainees became eligible to apply for a Certificate to Practice as a mediator from MII.

As part of the project, the group will also participate in a field trip to a mediation project in Northern Ireland. This will consist of an exchange visit and mural tour hosted by Mediation Northern Ireland, an organisation which works to support reconciliation and community cohesion, and uses mediative practice to build capacity for change and promote sustainable peace building.

The group of trained Mediators in Leitrim will work towards implementing the use of mediation in county Leitrim, with the aim of improving and developing more positive relationships, as well as empowering people to deal with conflict more creatively.

For more information please contact Deirdre Rooney at drooney@leitrimcoco.ie.



The participants at the Certified Mediation Training in Leitrim.

EU 'Peace Bridge' Launch Confirmed



The Peace Bridge at an advance stage of its construction.

The launch of the largest capital build project to be funded under the EU's PEACE III Programme has been confirmed for June.

Spanning the River Foyle the new 235m long foot and cycle bridge has received approximately £14.6m worth of assistance from the European Union and will act as a physical symbol of peace and reconciliation for the people of Derry-Londonderry. The bridge is well on track to open for its official launch on Saturday, 25 June 2011.

Extensive plans are already well under way for the launch, which will involve a vibrant and colourful week-end long series of celebratory events throughout the city. Supported under the

'Creating Shared Spaces' theme of the PEACE III Programme the bridge has been designed to act as a positive catalyst for change, bringing people together in a safe and neutral environment.

Running from behind the Guildhall Square on to the former Parade Ground in Ebrington Barracks, the bridge will encourage greater levels of cross-community contact within a city which has, over the years, experienced sharp social division along sectarian lines.

Now eagerly anticipated by all communities the bridge is set to transform the city's skyline and contribute to a much welcome tourism boost that will provide long-term social and economic benefits for many years to come.

Major PEACE III Event 2011

Ahead of the planned launch of the new £14.6 million Peace Bridge across the River Foyle in Derry-Londonderry the SEUPB is currently co-ordinating a one day event at the Derry City Hotel.

Open to all interested in EU funding the event will look at the cultural significance and socio-political impact of a number of famous bridges across Europe including the Stari Most Bridge in Bosnia, which was rebuilt following the conflict and the Samuel Beckett and James Joyce bridges in Dublin.

In the run-up to the event, more information, including an outline agenda, will be available on www.seupb.eu.

News & Info

Communicating the Benefits of European Funding

The SEUPB recently co-ordinated its annual series of communication and networking workshops for both PEACE III and INTERREG IVA funded projects.

The workshops took place in the Playhouse Theatre in Derry-Londonderry, the Jordanstown campus of the University of Ulster in Belfast, the Glasshouse in Sligo and Stephenstown Pond in Dundalk.

Each event provided advice and guidance on how the projects can acknowledge the assistance they receive from the European Regional Development Fund.

A recent survey conducted by the European Commission found that 79% of EU citizens had never heard of EU regional funding, despite the billions of pounds worth of support that has been provided to the UK and other member states over the years. The workshops give the projects the opportunity to network with each other and exchange examples of best practice in terms of communications activity. They are also designed to enhance the communication capabilities of the individuals responsible for delivering upon each project's communication plan.

Each year the SEUPB commissions a specialist public relations or marketing consultant to focus on a particular aspect of communications.

Last year the workshops focused on e-marketing and the use of social media and blogging to help projects increase their on line presence.

This year participants had a chance to learn more about how the media works, what makes a strong news story and how to grab and sustain the interest of the public.

Nick Garbutt of 'Asitis Consulting' was on hand to deliver the training and, drawing upon his experience of handling the media during the Northern Bank robbery, provided some useful tips on the creation of a crisis management plan.

The projects were also informed about new changes to the recording and evaluation of their communications activity which will allow the European Commission to more easily view and access the great work that is being carried out to publicise European funding.



Participants at the Communication Network Meeting and Workshop in Belfast.

SEUPB Lead Partner Seminar

As part of its ongoing commitment to provide guidance on all aspects of project management to the lead partners, funded under the EU's PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes, the SEUPB recently co-ordinated a seminar at the Armagh City Hotel.

Attended by over 100 project and operation representatives the seminar covered a number of different themes including first level control and public procurement; an overview of the claims process and an outline of all publicity and communication requirements.

A number of SEUPB staff presented at the event, lead by Programme Manager Eimear Murphy, and were on hand to answer questions following a roundtable discussion of some of the key issues.

The seminar is part of a number of events organised by the SEUPB on an annual basis to help new and existing projects and operations navigate the protocols and procedures that are an integral part of EU funding.

For some participants, representing newly funded projects, it was their first exposure to the full breadth of protocols and procedures to be followed.

The event gave them the opportunity to share information and learn more about how to integrate these protocols into their projects from some of the more experienced beneficiaries.

During the feedback session of the event a number of questions were asked focusing on procurement procedures, vouching and verification as well as project evaluation.

Clarification was given on matters such as the number of quotations to be obtained for third party costs and new EU procurement thresholds for supplies and services.

Full details were also provided on the communication and marketing obligations of the projects to help them engage more effectively with their key stakeholders.



Securing the Future of Europe's Waterways

An EU-wide project funded by the European Union is looking at how to protect our inland waterways. As the main channel of communication, essential to trade and industry inland waterways were historically of crucial importance to the development of European nations and played a paramount role in shaping urban landscapes across Europe.

In recent times, however, with the advent of new forms of land and air transport they have lost their primal position and all over Europe canals, rivers, lakes and streams have been abandoned and progressively neglected.

Waterways Forward is a project developed under the European Union's INTERREG IVC Programme, whose main objective is to improve the management of regional inland waterways for recreational boating and amenity use.

It also aims to reinvigorate the regions adjacent to them by promoting an integrated, sustainable and participatory approach, taking account of the multi-functional role of waterways. It brings together 17 partner organisations from 11 EU countries plus Norway and Serbia.

Waterways Ireland was involved in the preparation of the funding application and is actively involved in the delivery of the project. The project is mainly focused on sharing best practice. Waterways Ireland, in addition to learning about the experience of organisations across Europe, will bring to the

table its track record in managing inland waterways in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

The project is working on two overarching themes related to inland waterways. It concerns itself with the governance aspect of how waterways are managed to deliver a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefits, across the regions and countries around them. Simultaneously, it also looks at the environmental aspect, investigating how the economic and social benefits of waterways can be delivered, while protecting or indeed enhancing the quality of the natural and built environment.

The €2.8m project runs for three years from 2010 to 2012. The Lead Partner is Stichting Recreatietoervaart Nederland (Dutch Recreational Waterways Foundation).

For further information contact Katrina Mc Girr, Press Officer at Waterways Ireland on +353 71 9650560.



Second Inter-regional Meeting of the Waterways Forward partners at Lombardy Region Headquarters, Palazzo Pirelli, Milan, Italy.

Transnational and Inter-regional Programmes Update

INTERREG IVC Information Seminar

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. These programmes are between 60 – 70% committed and the SEUPB has been working hard over the past few months to ensure that organisations in Northern Ireland are taking the opportunities provided by these programmes. For more information on a successful INTERREG IVC project please see previous page.

The SEUPB, together with the BMW Regional Assembly, hosted an Information Seminar on 4 March 2011 in Newry. The event was held as part of the support offered by both organisations for applicants to the current call for proposals under the INTERREG IVC programme, which closed on 1 April.

INTERREG IVC is an interregional programme, especially targeted at local and regional authorities, which aims to improve the effectiveness of regional policies and instruments, through the transfer of good practices between participating partners responsible for the development of local and regional policies.

The information seminar provided over 30 local and regional authorities in Northern Ireland and Ireland with an overview of the programme and provided opportunities to join established partnerships. Mr Akos Szabo from the INTERREG IVC Info Point

West and Michael O'Brien from the BMW Regional Assembly provided an overview of the requirements of the programme and the current call. Sabine Kalke from Belfast City Council and Colm McColgan from ERNACT in Donegal outlined their experiences of being involved in INTERREG IVC.

For further information on the INTERREG IVC and IVB Programmes contact Teresa Lennon at teresa.lennon@seupb.eu.



(L-r) Colm McColgan, ERNACT, Michael O'Brien, BMW Regional Assembly, Teresa Lennon, SEUPB, Akos Szabo, INTERREG IVC Info Point and Sabine Kalke, Belfast City Council.

(L-r) – Padraig Coyle of the Belfast Celtic Society, Kate Turner, Healing Through Remembering, and Michael Boyd, Head of Community Relations at the Irish Football Association.

Project News

‘Lish and Gerry at the Shrine’ – How Two Football Fans Defied Sectarianism in Sport

‘Lish and Gerry at the Shrine’ is a drama performance inspired by the story of two Northern Irish football legends who crossed the sectarian divide in the 1940s. Elisha Scott was the Protestant manager of the traditional Nationalist Belfast Celtic while Gerry Morgan was Linfield’s Catholic trainer, even though Linfield was perceived as Protestant/Unionist.

The two men grew up as exemplar supporters of their respective teams and went on to play for and manage them in adult life, despite the fact that due to their community background they would have been expected to adopt a different affiliation.

Furthermore, the two maintained a close friendly relationship and were said to have brought the teams closer together, in the midst of strong controversy and rife sectarianism in the Belfast football scene in the 1940s.

With support from the European Union, the Irish Football Association (IFA), in partnership with the Belfast Celtic Society and Healing Through Remembering, hosted a drama



performance at Stormont Buildings in February, followed by an interactive workshop in the Senate Chamber on the issue of Dealing with the Past. The workshop was facilitated by a local community group, Healing Through Remembering, which encouraged people from the local football family to share their stories about the good community relations work going on in the sport today. The initiative is part of Football for All, a wider PEACE III-funded project led by the IFA.

Kate Turner, Director at Healing Through Remembering said: “Sport is an integral part of community identity. It can exacerbate existing tribalism but it can also be a common link that crosses boundaries. Looking at contentious issues in the past can help us to understand how we relate to each other in the present, thereby building a more peaceful future.”

Michael Boyd, from the IFA added: “This witty, clever and moving drama was first shown at Windsor Park in 2010 and was so successful that a group of local MLAs decided to bring the event to Stormont. The Association has learnt from the past and moved on to become a community focused organisation which is mainstreaming community relations into the heart of its work”.

For more information on the Football For All Project contact Michael Boyd on 0789 4614328 or mboyd@irishfa.com.



(L-r) Irish Justice Minister Dermot Ahern T.D., Professor Seán McConville, Mr Denis Cummins – President Dundalk IT, NI Justice Minister David Ford MLA, Dr. Anna Bryson at the launch of 'The Peace Process – Layers of Meaning'

Project News

Peace Process – Layers of Meaning

A project led by Queen Mary University of London, in association with Dundalk Institute of Technology and Trinity College, Dublin, aims to provide an in-depth first-hand account of the Peace Process from the 1960s to the present day.

The first objective of the three-year project, led by Professor Seán McConville and Dr Anna Bryson, is the collection of 100 interviews with key figures in the Peace Process, which will provide a lasting resource for citizens and scholars alike. These interviews will be held under embargo for up to forty years before release, in order to encourage interviewees to speak as freely as possible on acutely sensitive topics. It is intended that the interviews will be stored at the British Library Sound Archive in London, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and the Archives Department at University College, Dublin.

The interviews will be contextualised by the creation of an extensive online directory of interviews on the Peace Process from the 1960s to the present. This will provide an authoritative archive and function as an essential research tool to future and complementary research projects.

The second aim of the project is to provide oral history training to interested citizens, further education students and tutors in the border area, in order to capture the stories of those people who

lived through the significant and often traumatic events of the last half century.

The project, funded by the European Union's PEACE III Programme, was launched in November 2010 at Dundalk Institute of Technology. The event was attended by politicians, academics, diplomats, members of the clergy and various community representatives.

Speaking at the launch event, the Northern Ireland Justice Minister David Ford MLA said, "In Ireland, North and South, we can never forget our past, nor should we. Our experiences cost us dearly and we must continue to reflect on the lessons of the past for the benefit of everyone's future. That is why projects such as this are so important."

The Republic's Minister for Justice and Law Reform, Dermot Ahern TD, agreed that, "we can all learn from our past and this research project will create a rich depository of knowledge and experiences from which future generations - and not just historians - can draw."

Further information on the project is available online at www.peaceprocesshistory.org.

Giant Hogweed, as seen in the picture, is one of the species that is being included in the project.

Project News



QUB Tackles Invasive Species to Promote Bio-diversity

Every year, controlling invasive plants species has an estimated economic impact of €12 million across Europe. They are one of the biggest causes of bio-diversity loss worldwide and are a growing problem in the UK and Ireland.

Queen's University Belfast recently launched a new £2.6 million project which will make an important contribution to tackle this issue through an innovative approach combining research, control programmes and stakeholder engagement.

The CIRB (Controlling priority Invasive species and Restoring native Bio-diversity) project aims to demonstrate that a prioritised suite of invasive species - giant hogweed, rhododendron, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam – can be controlled or eradicated strategically on a catchment basis. Together these species have been estimated to cost over £7.5 million to control each year in river catchments in Britain.

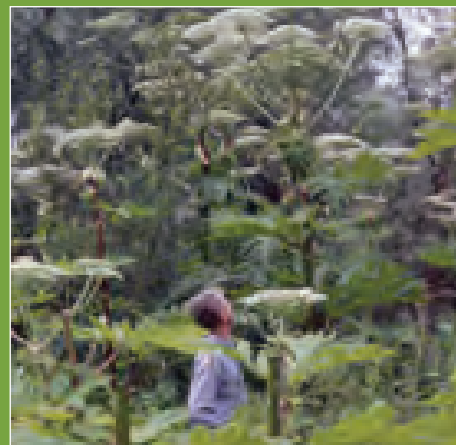
Professor Christine Maggs, project leader, highlights some of the benefits of the initiative: "This exciting new project will not only control invasive species in key river catchments, but deliver new research showing how these species and their control affect native bio-diversity and soils and how they can be restored effectively. It will also clearly demonstrate the economic benefits of controlling invasive species and restoring the amenity value of river corridors."

The three species in particular that are being targeted by the project take over river banks, preventing their use for angling and recreation. Giant hogweed, for example, also contains toxic sap

that when in direct contact with human skin can result in painful blisters and is a danger to public health. Furthermore, as aggressive species, they hinder the growth of native plants and harm the eco-system. New approaches combining scientific research with action on the ground and community engagement are fundamental to prevent further environmental, economic and social impacts from invasive species.

The CIRB project will run until December 2014 and is part-financed by the INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme. It is being undertaken by a partnership of Queen's University Belfast, the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland, University of Ulster and Inland Fisheries Ireland.

For further information on the CIRB project contact Cathy Maguire on c.m.maguire@qub.ac.uk.



The presence of one of the researchers makes the dimension of the invasive plants more evident.

ConneXions That Matter

Project News

A project that aims to support disabled people developing a social network and tackling the isolation that traditionally affects them has recently been launched.

ConneXions is a three-year community development programme that will establish four social network projects across the border regions of Newry, Dundalk, Letterkenny and Derry-Londonderry. It will also establish a Strategic Forum involving key public sector organisations, to explore and address the infrastructural barriers to social networking for disabled people resident in border areas.

It was set up last October and is seeking to reduce isolation experienced by people with disabilities living in border and rural areas. It encourages peer support and is focused on establishing user-led networks that offer advice, support, and enhance social and economic opportunities.

The project, led by The Cedar Foundation, in partnership with National Learning Network aims to make a significant contribution to the development of new structures that will empower people with different impairments to build up a social network of contacts and support.

This project uses a two-tiered solution to the identified needs. Cross-border collaboration is seen as critical to sharing experiences and identifying common issues, challenges and solutions that transcend national boundaries.

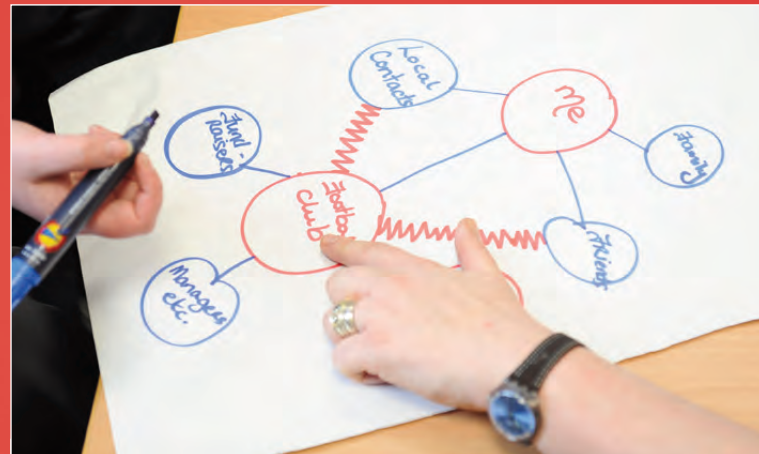
It is also recognised that in order to be effective ConneXions must also target change in the public sector infrastructure. The project will establish a Strategic Forum of key public sector organisations in order to address the identified needs.

The establishment of the Social Networks will help disabled people to develop and maintain positive relationships that prevent them from becoming socially and economically excluded from their communities.

In addition to the development of the social networks and the Strategic Forum, the project will deliver capacity building training to disabled people who will act as drivers for the establishment of social networks in each target area. As part of its offer, it will also create a ConneXions website that will support virtual and actual social networking for the target group.

The capacity building training will include 40 participants (10 in each designated area) and will enable them to play an active leadership role in the long-term as 'Social Network Drivers'.

For further information contact Anne Woods, Head of ConneXions, The Cedar Foundation. Tel: 07921 886 788. Email: a.woods@cedar-foundation.org



Break-out exercise at the ConneXions workshop in Derry-Londonderry.

Programme Summaries and SEUPB Contacts

PEACE III

The €333 million PEACE III Programme 2007-2013 is a distinctive European Union Structural Funds Programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation. Building upon lessons and good practice gained from previous PEACE Programmes, it specifically focuses on two Priorities:

- Reconciling Communities and
- Contributing to a Shared Society.

The eligible area is Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo.)

For further information on the PEACE III Programme contact:

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INTERREG IVA

The €256 million INTERREG IVA Programme 2007-2013 aims to support strategic cross-border territorial co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region.

The targeted eligible area is Northern Ireland (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.
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E: monaghan@seupb.eu or

Caroline Coleman, National Contact Point for Scotland, Scotland Europa, 150 Broomielaw, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow G2 8LU.
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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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