

Your EU!



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

SPRING 2010

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



Linking trade for business success
Tradelinks project helps micro-businesses pursue cross-border trade

Cross-border regeneration project
Termon Project to revitalise two villages in Donegal and Fermanagh

Gender gap
Project helps women acquire skills for active participation in public life

Peace Bridge in Londonderry
Minister announces construction of new foot and cycle bridge



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

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

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

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



Welcome to the first edition of Your EU for 2010. This year marks the start of a new decade as well as the half-way point of the current programming period allowing us to reflect upon what has been achieved to date and look forward to what can be accomplished in the future.

As we move into Spring there is a lot to celebrate, with many new and diverse projects receiving EU assistance. January and February have already seen a number of high-profile launches including the ‘Termon’ Project on the border of Donegal and Fermanagh, and the enterprise focused ‘Tradelinks 2’ initiative.

Projects supported soon after the launch of the programmes are also progressing well, with large-scale construction initiatives such as the Peace bridge on target for completion towards the end of the year.

The SEUPB has also been helping more projects access the Transnational (INTERREG IVB) and Inter-regional (INTERREG IVC) Programmes. Designed to stimulate new ideas and the exchange of best practice across Europe, these programmes and the projects that they support are making a real and tangible impact.

The dedication shown by members of both the monitoring and steering committees continues to prove invaluable as we move forward. Their continued support plays an integral part in the effective management of PEACE III and INTERREG IVA, ensuring that the programmes are implemented with the appropriate degree of transparency and accountability.

We have also been working closely with the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Finance in Ireland to keep them updated as to the programmes’ progress and the creation of greater efficiencies in how they are implemented.

To help mark the mid-way point of the PEACE III Programme we are currently planning a major conference on the 20th May at the Waterfront Hall. It will feature a number of high-profile speakers and an interactive exhibition of project beneficiaries drawn from across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties. A separate conference focusing on the INTERREG IVA Programme will also be organised for October. More details on both events will feature in this and future editions of Your EU.

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body

Linking Trade for Business Success

A new cross-border business development programme has received £2.98 million worth of support under the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme.

Delivered by Enterprise NI alongside the network of Local Enterprise Agencies and the Border County Enterprise Boards, it has been designed to support the growth of the micro-enterprise sector across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Called 'Tradelinks 2', the programme's principal aim is to directly assist approximately 550 micro-businesses and address barriers to cross-border trade and development. Using a combination of business mentoring, research and networking, the programme will help small businesses become more sustainable and competitive. Speaking at the launch of the programme, Ken Nelson, Chairman of Enterprise NI said:

"This is the second Tradelinks programme and we hope that it mirrors the success of the first initiative. The quality and variety of support which we believe Tradelinks offers the micro-enterprise sector is testament to the time, commitment and consideration that has gone into providing a programme which will benefit all those companies participating in it."



Joint-chairs of the Tradelinks Joint Management Committee, Gordon Gough, CEO Enterprise NI, and Michael Tunney, CEO Donegal County Enterprise Board at the launch of the Tradelinks project in Cookstown on the 5th March.

The programme will place particular emphasis on developing mutually beneficial cross-border trade opportunities and enterprise linkages. Welcoming the initiative, Howard Keery, Director of the Special EU Programme Body's Joint Technical Secretariat, said: "The Tradelinks programme is an excellent example of cross-border co-operation which will benefit the economic and social well-being of communities on both sides of the border. In focusing on the promotion of cross-border partnership, networking and economic development, we are confident that it will deliver real and tangible benefits on the ground."

Building upon the success of the initial Tradelinks project, which provided support to over 680 businesses, creating over 800 jobs and in excess of €50m in additional sales, the new programme is anticipated to have an even greater impact.

The 'Tradelinks 2' Programme will run until June 2012 and will be available to any micro-enterprise in Northern Ireland or the Border Counties of Ireland. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact either their Local Enterprise Agency or County Enterprise Board.

For more information visit www.tradelinks2.com

Termon Project Launch

Project News



PEACE III NEW APPROACH TO REGENERATION IN DONEGAL AND FERMANAGH.

Pictured at the launch are (l-r) Tánaiste, Minister Mary Coughlan, Mayor Bendan Byrne, Donegal County Council, Francie Coyle, Donegal County Council, Cllr Alex Baird, Fermanagh District Council, Cllr Robert Irvine, Chair of Fermanagh District Council, Martin Eves, Chair of ADoPT and Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB.

Picture: Michael Cooper

Termon Project Launch – A New Approach to Regeneration in Donegal and Fermanagh

The twin villages of Pettigo in County Donegal and Tullyhommon in County Fermanagh will benefit from a recently launched project to promote cross-community interaction through physical regeneration of community infrastructures in the area.

As part of the €8.3 million PEACE III-funded 'Termon project', the community centre in Pettigo, the Methodist Hall in Tullyhommon and part of the surrounding area will be re-developed and designed to promote interaction between the communities.

Located on the border of Donegal and Fermanagh, the area has experienced some of the worst deprivations of the conflict over the years leading to intense social segregation.

Spearheaded by Donegal County Council, alongside Fermanagh District Council and the Association for the Development of Pettigo and Tullyhommon (ADoPT), the project will help to transform the local area and potentially open up new employment opportunities.

Speaking at the launch of the project, Mr Francie Coyle, Director of Planning & Economic Development at Donegal

County Council, said: "The extensive redevelopment of the physical environment and community infrastructure as proposed by this project will regenerate and transform the twin villages and promote a vibrant, active and integrated community."

Upon completion the project will create the Termon Centre, a multi-purpose facility providing shared space for local and regional events as well as activities such as sport and drama. It will also include a new playschool, a public playground and a community garden. In addition to the centre, the initiative will facilitate the refurbishment of the Methodist Hall in Tullyhommon, which will be converted into a local youth cafe. The aim is to turn these facilities into modern hubs providing neutral shared spaces where citizens from both communities can interact with each other.

To complement the work that is being undertaken in the villages the Termon riverbank will also be revitalised to include the development of a new riverside park stretching from a new village gateway at Tullyhommon to a riverfront picnic area on the Pettigo side, joined by a newly constructed footbridge.

Also attending the launch were Councillor Robert Irvine, Chairman of Fermanagh District Council, and Martin Eves, Chair of ADoPT, who both welcomed this significant investment in the area.

EU Supports Major Tourism Initiative



Mayor of Donegal County Council, Cllr Brendan Byrne speaking at the official launch of the Sail West Project". Photograph supplied by Clive Wasson Photography

Sail West, a €7M tourism initiative across the northwest coast of Ireland, north and east coast of Northern Ireland and western Scotland, was recently launched in Co. Donegal by An Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan, TD.

Speaking at the event at the Millpark Hotel in Donegal to around 70 participants, An Tánaiste said: "The €7m capital investment programme and marketing initiative will be a great boost to all working and involved in the tourism industry, and through working with partners in Northern Ireland and Scotland, we will be able to offer an exciting and diverse marine tourism product."

Sail West aims to encourage the development of marine tourism across the entire region, through a targeted capital investment programme in key marine infrastructure and a concerted marketing campaign. The capital investment programme will provide a network of highly developed boating, angling and marine tourism-related infrastructure aimed at increasing visitor numbers. This will be supported by an ambitious marketing programme aimed at promoting the region as a must-visit marine and cultural tourism destination.

Also speaking at the launch event, the Mayor of County Donegal, Cllr. Brendan Byrne, commented: "I would like to thank all of our partners from Northern Ireland, Scotland and indeed the Republic of Ireland for coming together to collaborate on what I hope will be a highly successful initiative. It is my belief that County Donegal has everything that a tourist could want: stunning scenery, an endless coastline with an abundance of blue flag beaches, excellent bars, restaurants, and shops, an unrivalled programme of festivals and events, and last but not least warm and welcoming people."

Performing at the launch event was An Crann Óg – a group of young traditional Irish musicians between the ages of 10 to 18 years, from Gweedore in Co. Donegal.

The Sail West project, which is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVA Cross-border Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, is led by Donegal County Council in conjunction with 20 partners in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

For more information please contact Michael Heaney at Donegal County Council: moheanaigh@donegalcoco.ie

Women into Public Life

Project News

Across Europe the number of women holding decision-making and leadership positions is gradually increasing. This trend is, however, not consistent across all European regions with some areas still suffering from a serious under-representation of women in public life and decision-making roles.

Recent statistics highlight that the North West of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland are amongst the regions which are significantly lagging behind.

Of the three regions, Scotland is leading in terms of women with a legislative role accounting for 34.1% of Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs). Northern Ireland has much lower numbers with only 16.7% of Members of the Local Assembly (MLAs) being women. An even worse situation can be found in the Irish Parliament, where 13% of those elected to the Dáil and 17% of those elected to the Seanad are women.

To address this gap, Donegal County Council, together with its partner organisation, is implementing a project that will help more women acquire the skills necessary to allow them to engage in civic networks and participate in the policy debate at a local, national and European level.

The results from the last local elections determined that in both Scotland and Northern Ireland 22% of all local councillors are women, whilst in Ireland women account for only 16% of all elected representatives.

Promoting equal participation of women and men in decision-making is one of the priorities of the European Commission's Roadmap for equality between women and men (2006-2010).

For more information on the project please contact Maria Ferguson at maria.ferguson@donegalcoco.ie



Pictured (l-r) Terry Conway, Maureen Fox, Noirin Clancy and Eilish Boyle, programme officers for the Women Into Public Life project.

Fun, Play & the RAPP

Real Life Interviews

“ Away from home and in a different context I feel I can be totally honest and that I’m listened to in a different way. There’s no blame.”

Chris Murray, Carrickfergus

Chris Murray and Phil Reynolds at the YMCA's PAKT House in Carrickfergus.



Serious Debate –

Real Life Interviews

Over three unusually cold weekends this winter, a group of nine young people from Carrickfergus travelled to Donegal and Londonderry, where they built rafts, got involved in rock wall climbing, archery and numerous other activities involving streams, mud, planks and ropes.

The trip was part of a PEACE III-funded project called RAPP (Reconciliation And Peace Peer initiative) organised by Carrickfergus YMCA and supported through the CAN PEACE III Partnership, the Carrickfergus Borough Council and the Community Relations Council. The aim of the project was to engage young people in personal development by looking at issues such as self-awareness, communication skills, self-confidence, team-work and leadership development, as a backdrop to group discussions on the reasons behind prejudice and sectarianism.

One of the young participants, Chris Murray, 16, was thrilled to be given the opportunity to take part in the project. “The stuff we talk about in the residential is different. Everyone has their views and different opinions, but no-one is afraid of sharing them. We all just talk. Away from home and in a different context I feel I can be totally honest and that I’m listened to in a different way. There’s no blame,” he explained.

An aspiring Football Studies student, he was first attracted to the RAPP project by the opportunity to build up his points scheme through the training activities, towards a stronger application to university in Liverpool.

A similar objective influenced his best friend’s decision to join the project as well. Phil Reynolds, 17, is moving to Newcastle, England to pursue his training as a youth worker and outdoor activities instructor. An outdoor activities enthusiast, he loved every second of the raft-building and race activity despite the frost and the snow.

He also had strong views on the benefits of the debates they all took part in. “Going away and seeing different people and realities was great. We had the chance to get our views across and were able to share ideas and opinions with freedom and without pressure or the fear of being judged.”

As part of the project, the young people participating were also involved in group discussions aimed at understanding how values and beliefs are shaped by the environment they live in, as well as other factors such as family, peers, church and the broader community.

The young people also engaged in conflict resolution workshops and looked at the history of Ireland over the last 100 years, including ‘the Troubles’. Talking about the interaction taking place during the residential trips, Phil said: “There’s a constant debate. You see that people are different because they just grew up in different situations and contexts – it helps you understand what they are about.”

Alongside this project, Bob Loade, General Secretary with Carrickfergus YMCA, is currently involved in the construction of a new Youth and Community Centre, which will be built with funding from the PEACE III Programme, the International Fund for Ireland and Carrickfergus Borough Council.

The new centre will enable Carrickfergus YMCA to maintain and expand its social outreach activities with young people and their families in Carrickfergus and the surrounding area.

For further information contact Bob Loade at Carrickfergus YMCA: bob.l@carrickymca.org

News & Info

Minister commends work of Old Warren Community Association



Northern Ireland Finance Minister Sammy Wilson recently visited a Lisburn-based project delivering educational training for women. Funded through the EU's PEACE III Programme and run by the Old Warren Community Association, the project has been developed by the Training for Women Network and Women into Politics.

The Old Warren Community Association is one of a network of organisations delivering a £2.7 million project providing educational training for women across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. The project is helping local women to explore their own and other cultures; deal with and challenge the root causes of racism and sectarianism as well as enable them to play a greater role in decision-making at both a local and national level.

Commending the work of the project during his visit, Minister Wilson said: "The project's outworking, through groups such as the Old Warren Community Association, will harness the existing skills, experience and relationships of groups across Northern

Ireland. These groups will allow the project to reach out to a wide network of women, ensuring that the training is provided to those most in need.

"Neighbourhoods such as the Old Warren will benefit from this funding, providing educational opportunities that would otherwise not have been available to many women within their community," he continued.

Speaking about the project, Norma Shearer, Chief Executive of the Training for Women Network, said: "With the support of the PEACE III Programme, the Positive Relations project is providing women throughout Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland with the training and education to enable them to gain the skills and knowledge required to build lasting sustainable positive relations at a local level.

"The project also seeks to increase women's representation at all levels of decision-making in conflict resolution through the provision of political skills training and confidence building," she continued.



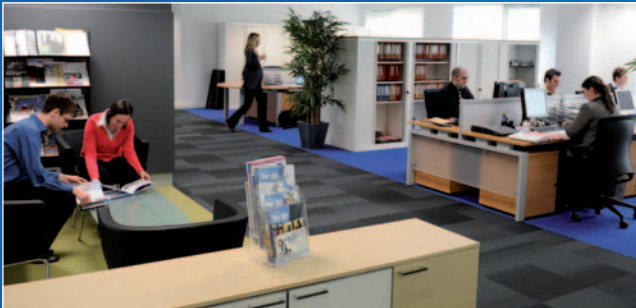
New offices

SEUPB Moves to New office in Belfast

The SEUPB Belfast office has officially moved to new premises in the city centre. The new HQ is located on Clarence Street West, off Bedford Street, on the 7th floor of the newly renovated Clarence West Building.

We look forward to welcoming visitors to our new office and giving them a quick tour of our new surroundings.

The new postal address for the SEUPB is:
Special EU Programmes Body
7th Floor
The Clarence West Building
Clarence Street West
Belfast BT2 7GP



Reception area of the new SEUPB office. Picture: Michael Cooper

SEUPB Plans PEACE III Conference

To help mark the half-way point of the PEACE Programme the SEUPB is planning a major conference at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast on 20 May.

The event will feature a series of personal testimonials on the impact of the programme from a number of different project beneficiaries supported under the various themes contained within PEACE III.

Key-note speeches focussing on an assessment of peace building within Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland as well as other potential sources of EU funding will be given at the event.

A special exhibition area will also be created for projects and operations to showcase their work. This will allow conference delegates to gain a more detailed appreciation and understanding of the various initiatives currently receiving EU assistance under PEACE III.

For more details on the event or to receive an invitation please contact John McCandless at e-mail: john.mccandless@seupb.eu

News & Info

SEUPB Lead Partner Seminar



As part of its ongoing commitment to providing advice and guidance to Programme-funded projects and operations, the SEUPB recently co-ordinated a lead partners seminar at the Armagh 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 Brenda Hegarty, 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 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 programmes from some of the more experienced projects and operations. During the feedback session of the event a number of questions were asked, focusing on procurement procedures, vouching and verification as well as 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 needed to help projects deliver upon their core objectives.

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

Inclusive Neighbourhood Project Launch

News & Info

In December 2009 the Inclusive Neighbourhood Project was successfully launched at the Ulster Museum, to an audience of 200 guests. The Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Naomi Long, opened the proceedings and gave her support for the project.

She was the first to contribute to the Time Capsule, which was created to capture the dreams and aspirations of the moment as reflected by local communities and Asylum Seekers taking part in this project to support integration between refugee and host communities in and around Northern Ireland.

The initiative aims to set strong foundations for in-coming asylum seekers to help build a positive and inclusive neighbourhood environment. Its goal is to promote ways of dealing with difference that may reduce the likelihood of sectarian behaviour and violence, thus increasing the potential for members of the refugee and host community to fully integrate into their new environment.

The Inclusive Neighbourhood Project is a partnership between Corrymeela and the Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS), and is supported by the PEACE III Programme managed by the Special EU Programme Body.

One of the highlights of the event was the presentation by visiting 'Scotswomen of the Year 2008' Jean Donnachie and Noreen Real, who told of their dramatic experiences supporting and defending Asylum Seekers in their estate in Glasgow.

For more information contact Ann Marie White at Corrymeela 028 90508080 email amwhite@corrymeela.org or website www.corrymeela.org

Inclusive



The Inclusive Neighbourhood Project (INP) launch at The Ulster Museum, December 2009. Pictured (l-r) Fiona Campbell, Host Facilitator; Safdar Zaman, NICRAS; Ann Marie White, Corrymeela; Justin Kuoame, Participant; Rt Hon The Lord Mayor, Naomi Long MLA add their notes to the INP Time Capsule.

Picture: Michael Cooper

Young entrepreneurs attend a session at the recently inaugurated Studio NoCry in Kramfors, Sweden.

Project News

Northern Creative Youth Incubating Ideas

Based on the premise that young people everywhere are bubbling with fresh new ideas for innovative creative businesses, a new transnational project aims to bring young creative minds together to develop their business projects and connect with young entrepreneurs in other regions.

The NoCry (Northern Creative Youth) project aims to spread knowledge, enhance networking and promote entrepreneurship among young creative people in the Northern areas of Europe. The project is part-financed by the European Union's INTERREG IVB Northern Periphery Programme and involves partners from six countries: Finland, Sweden, Scotland, Norway, Faroe Islands and Northern Ireland.

The main outcome of the project is an online service, a Virtual Incubator called incubiz.eu which contains information, knowledge, models and best practices on how to develop incubation hub services for creative industries. The service will support young creative people interested in becoming entrepreneurs, and it will offer them opportunities to get contacts and foster networking across borders.

On the Virtual Incubator, members who are active or interested in areas such as art, media, film and literature can increase their



knowledge around the business opportunities in these areas. From the information available and through shared experience, they can also learn about the support structures that exist in the region to aid new entrants to the market. Another of the initiatives developed by the partners is the Road Tour, a course for students in creative fields designed to challenge both students and teachers to create vocational awareness and new ways of thinking.

The objective is to put practical experiences, independence and motivation into the development of entrepreneurial skills. One of the road tours took place in Piteå, Sweden. A team of students started their journey at the School of Music in Piteå and were later led by the Road Tour team to meet creative professionals and experience interesting locations within the Northern Periphery.

The Nerve Centre in Londonderry is the organisation behind the project in Northern Ireland. Other partners involved in this project are: Intotalo, Entrepreneurship Training Centre (Kajaani, Finland); Tvibit, Youth Cultural Centre/Yoghurt (Tromsø, Norway); Klippfisk (Tórshavn, Faroe Islands); Acusticum Go Business (Piteå, Sweden); Moray College (Moray, Scotland).

For more information contact: Richard Taylor on richard@nerve-centre.org.uk or visit the website on www.incubiz.eu



Funding Opportunities Available to Work with European Partners

Project News

Do you have a project idea? Have you considered looking beyond local issues and national borders? Would you like the opportunity of meeting new people, exchanging experiences, sharing knowledge, developing a new work culture, and working together to achieve better results? If the answer to all these questions is YES, then INTERREG IVB and IVC programmes are for you – and calls are ongoing.

Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland are eligible regions within the Northern Periphery Programme, the North-West Europe programme, the Atlantic Area programme and the INTERREG IVC programme.

The INTERREG IVC call is currently closed. A further call is likely towards the end of 2010. This programme is aimed at local and regional authorities, and will focus on 'regional initiative projects' as well as capitalisation projects. For further information on this programme, please see www.interreg4c.eu

Within the scope of INTERREG IVB, Northern Ireland holds the Chair of the Northern Periphery Programme Monitoring Committee in 2010, so expect plenty of activity on this programme over the coming months.

The fifth call, is currently closed. Don't worry if your project idea is not ready for this call, as the sixth call is planned for September 2010 and will remain as an open call addressing all priorities of the programme. Northern Ireland will be hosting the next NPP Partenariat, entitled 'Phoenix 2010'. This event aims to bring together potential project applicants from across the programme area to generate projects based on collaboration between creative and traditional industries. The event will be held on 21–22 April

2010 in Portrush. Further information: www.northernperiphery.eu
The North-West Europe programme's sixth call has recently closed, and we are pleased to announce that the Programme Steering Committee, which will take decisions on the projects submitted, will be held on 16 and 17 June in Northern Ireland. Again, don't worry if your project idea is not ready for submission in this call. The seventh will close on 24 September 2010. That will be an open call across all priorities of the programme, but the main focus will be Priority 1 – Developing the North-West Europe knowledge-based economy by capitalizing on our capacity for innovation, and on Priority 4 – Strengthening communities.

In order to prepare for the seventh call, the Programme Secretariat is organising a number of events:

- Transnational workshops covering Priorities 1 and 4 of the programme will be held in Brussels on 18 and 19 May respectively. These workshops are aimed at organisations with ideas under these two priorities, and are intended to address the deficit in commitment experienced by these priorities by concentrating on project quality.
- A project development workshop will be held on 6 May 2010 in Leeds from 10am until 3.30pm. If you are interested in attending the workshop, please contact the SEUPB.

If you are interested in the Atlantic Area programme, a further call will open towards the end of 2010.

If you have any questions on any of the INTERREG IVB or IVC programmes, please do not hesitate to contact the Programme Manager at SEUPB, Teresa Lennon – Teresa.lennon@seupb.eu

New Urban Sports Park in Belfast City Centre

Belfast will soon have a new and complete urban sports park as work on 'Bridges Sports Park' will commence following the awarding of full planning permission for the project.

The project is funded by the European Union's PEACE III Programme and will occupy a currently derelict space underneath the M3 flyover bridge, next to Little Patrick Street, leased to the council by NI Transport Holdings Company, which will contribute to the regeneration of this urban area. Though still in its early stages, the park is set to include dedicated space and structures for BMX, rollerblading, free running and skateboarding, complete with all of the facilities needed such as 'sets of hips', 'quarter pipes', 'grind boxes' and 'hubbas'.

Speaking in support of the new development, Cllr Bob Stoker, Chairman of Belfast City Council's Parks and Leisure Committee, said: "We are looking forward to work getting underway to transform the area and make it a safe, welcoming and exhilarating place where urban sports enthusiasts can practise their skills."

Also optimistic about the future of the park was John Paul Matthew, Chairman of Belfast Urban Sports (BUS), which has been working alongside the Council on this project. He expressed his hope that in the near future the iconic park will help develop, "young enthusiasts of the sport into sponsored skaters who may even turn into international high profile professionals".

Costing approximately £500,000 to build, £370,000 of which was funded through PEACE III, the project epitomises one of the key priorities of the Programme in terms of creating shared spaces. Upon completion it will create a safe and neutral space where young people from all sections of the community can enjoy a shared sporting passion.

The park's name – Bridges Sports Park – which reflects its objective to bring people of different ages and communities together to play sports, was decided following an online voting poll.

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



Chairman of Belfast Urban Sports and professional skater Conhuir Lynn, and Matthew Gillespie, BMX professional rider in the derelict space which will become the new Bridges Sports Park.

Picture: Michael Cooper

Ministers Announce Start of Peace Bridge Construction

In January Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness and Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie announced the start of the construction of Londonderry's new Peace Bridge.

The project, funded by the PEACE III Programme, will bridge the physical barrier formed by the River Foyle, allowing all sections of the community to enjoy the riverside and benefit from a high quality route into the city centre.

Scheduled for completion by December 2010, the Peace Bridge will run from behind the Guildhall Square on to the former Parade Ground in the Ebrington Barracks.

Speaking at a special ceremony to mark the start of work on the bridge, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness said: "It is my sincere hope that the new bridge will be a catalyst for change and will help transform this city and the local community in the widest sense. It represents a real opportunity to improve relationships by transcending the physical divide of the river, which, for so long, has been viewed as a boundary between the Waterside and the city side."

The Social Development Minister, Margaret Ritchie, also welcomed the project and stressed its importance to the community by saying: "This new foot and cycle bridge will encourage all the citizens of Derry to have a renewed sense of pride in their city centre."

The contract for the design and construction of the third bridge across the River Foyle has been awarded to Graham and architects firm Wilkinson Eyre. Both Graham and Wilkinson Eyre

are known for some high-profile projects such as the Belfast Cross Harbour Road and Rail Bridges and the iconic Gateshead Millennium Bridge.

Also speaking at the event, Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of SEUPB, explained how the project epitomises what the PEACE III Programme aims to achieve. "The bridge underpins many of the core principles of the PEACE III Programme, which seeks to support projects with inherent longevity. In helping to re-shape part of the city it will create an enduring legacy that will have an enormously positive impact for many decades to come".

As part of the initiative, the citizens of Derry have been invited to put forward ideas for what they would like to see included in a time capsule to be placed in Ebrington to mark the completion of this project.

For further information contact Mo Durkan, Ilex on 028 7126 9226 or 07917 544297. Suggestions as to what items might be placed in the time capsule can be e-mailed to info@ilex-urc.com

Pictured (l-r) Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, Sir Roy McNulty, Chairman of Ilex, Aideen McGinley, Chief Executive of Ilex and Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB at the sod cutting for the Peace Bridge in Londonderry.

Picture: Michael Cooper



Raising Voices for Cultural Diversity

The experience of years of conflict brought to life by the voices of six of the people who lived through it and who to this day suffer its consequences. That was the proposition of the recent taster event – ‘Unheard Voices’ - organised as part of the Cultural Fusions programme.

Cultural and religious division has been at the centre of many of Northern Ireland’s problems, with differences being used over the years to fuel sectarianism and conflict. Cultural Fusions is an EU-funded programme which aims to change that by introducing people to the richness of cultural and ethnic diversity.

The ‘Unheard Voices’ event took place at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre in Ballymoney. It consisted of a screening of WAVE Trauma Centre’s DVD entitled ‘Unheard Voices’ featuring six individuals from a variety of backgrounds who either lost a family member in the Troubles or were brutally injured themselves.

Following the screening, the participants had the opportunity to see a selection of art objects produced by people who attend the WAVE Trauma Centre, highlighting the valuable role that art and cultural activity can play in addressing the traumas of conflict.

The project, funded under the EU’s PEACE III Programme, is managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by the North East PEACE III Partnership. It was delivered by the Cultural Fusions Consortium, which comprises Ballymena Borough Council, Ballymoney Borough Council, Causeway Museum Service,



Coleraine Borough Council, Flowerfield Art Centre, Larne Borough Council, Limavady Borough Council, the Mid-Antrim Museums Service and Moyle District Council.

Cultural Fusions represents an opportunity for local culture and arts groups to develop programmes with the collaborative assistance of the Cultural Fusions consortium to help them promote greater awareness of the rich cultural diversity of the North East.

The project also aims to help create a more inclusive society by enabling participating groups to learn about their own traditions and the traditions of others. Cultural Fusions will run until December 2010.

For more information on the programme or up-coming events contact: Maria Cagney, Causeway Museum Service
Tel: 028 7034 7235, Mobile: 078 82892021 or
email: maria.cagney@colerainebc.gov.uk



Project News

County Monaghan (seated l-r): Declan Nelson, Mayor Heather Humphreys, Tánaiste Mary Coughlan, Pat Colgan, Mary Begley. (standing l-r) Emma McCabe, Gabriel O'Connell, Charley McGuinness, Pauline Walsh, Charley McAdam, Mary Lynch and Seamus Treanor.

Building Positive Relations at the Local Level in Co Monaghan

The work developed under the European Union's PEACE III Programme has been invaluable to many communities across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. County Monaghan has been one such area, where several groups have helped to reconcile the difficulties of the past and use the resources provided by the Programme to develop greater cohesion within their communities.

To mark the launch of the PEACE III Programme, a special event was organised on 11th February in Clones Library in Monaghan. In line with one of the Programme's overall aims of building positive relations at the local level, one of the main objectives of the event was to bring different community groups together to promote their work as well as allowing them to exchange their views and experiences with other groups.

At the event, the projects also had the opportunity to demonstrate some of their work and progress to date to the guest speakers, which included the council County Mayor, Heather Humphreys, County Manager Declan Nelson, SEUPB Chief Executive Pat Colgan and the Tánaiste, Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment Mary Coughlan.

Speaking at the event, Mary Begley, Programme Manager for the Monaghan County Peace Partnership, said: "We are always trying to push the boundaries of our peace work so that wider community in Monaghan and beyond will live the benefits on a daily basis.

"We recognise the difficulties experienced by the wider community and we will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the projects to address these issues," she continued.

Tánaiste Mary Coughlan spoke at length about the impact that the 'Troubles' had on Monaghan and applauded the efforts of the Monaghan Peace Partnership to encourage positive change across the region.

County Manager Declan Nelson reiterated what the other speakers had said and praised the work and effort of the community groups, without which the Programme would not be possible.

For more information please contact Programme Manager Mary Begley at: mbegley@monaghanoco.ie

Programme Summaries and SEUPB Contracts

PEACE III

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

- Reconciling Communities and
- Contributing to a Shared Society.

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

For further information on the PEACE III Programme contact:

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

The Consortium Community Relations Council European Team
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9022 7500
E: european@nicrc.org.uk or
Border Action Monaghan,
Tel: +353 (0) 47 71340
E: info@borderaction.ie

INTERREG IVA

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

The targeted eligible area is Northern Ireland (excluding Greater Belfast), the Border Region of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo) and western Scotland (Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland, and South Ayrshire).

The Programme's two key priorities are:

- Co-operation for a more prosperous cross-border region, and
- Co-operation for a sustainable cross-border region.

For further information on the INTERREG IVA Programme contact:

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

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

INTERREG IVB Transnational Programmes

The SEUPB has a role in promoting North/South participation in the relevant INTERREG IVB Transnational Programmes. These programmes are:

- The Northern Periphery Programme.

This €45.2 million programme aims to help peripheral and remote communities in the northern regions of Europe to develop their economic, social and environmental potential. The programme area involves parts of Finland, Ireland, Sweden, Scotland, Northern Ireland - in co-operation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. SEUPB is the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland.

- The North West Europe Programme.

This €355 million programme aims to help make this new region more competitive, environment-friendly and cohesive by improving access to more and better jobs, enhancing the environmental qualities of the region, improving accessibility and ensuring that cities and rural areas are attractive and sustainable. The programme area is France, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland Luxembourg, Belgium, and Switzerland. The SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role.

- The Atlantic Area Programme. This €104 million programme aims to achieve progress on transnational co-operation that is geared towards cohesive, sustainable and balanced territorial development of the Atlantic Area and its maritime heritage. The programme region covers all of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and those regions within Portugal, Spain, France and the UK that border the Atlantic Ocean. The SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role.

INTERREG IVC Interregional Programme

The €302 million INTERREG IVC Interregional Programme is aimed at local and regional authorities. It focuses on the identification, analysis and dissemination of good practices by public authorities in order to improve the effectiveness of regional and local policies. Co-operation projects are eligible across all 27 EU states, plus Norway and Switzerland.

SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role for North/South participation in this programme.

For further information on IVB and IVC Programmes, contact: Teresa Lennon at the SEUPB Belfast office:
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6723
E: teresa.lennon@seupb.eu

Special EU Programmes body

info@seupb.eu
www.seupb.eu

Belfast

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

Monaghan

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

Omagh

EU House
11 Kelvin Road
Omagh
Northern Ireland BT78 1LB
T: +44 (0) 28 8226 5750