

## 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:

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### INTERREG IVA

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

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

The Programme's two key priorities are:

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

#### For further information on the INTERREG IVA Programme contact:

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### INTERREG IVB Transnational Programmes

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

#### – The Northern Periphery Programme.

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

#### – The North West Europe Programme.

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

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

### INTERREG IVC Inter-regional Programme

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

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

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# Your EU!



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Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE  
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects

SUMMER 2010

## AN UPDATE ON EUROPEAN UNION PEACE AND INTERREG PROGRAMMES



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€1 million secured for cross-border training

**Rural Enabler**  
Addressing racism and sectarianism in rural areas

**PEACE III Conference 2010**  
Conference marks the half-way point of the programme

**'Leading Ladies'**  
IPC project looks at examples of success and personal achievement



Ireland's EU Structural Funds  
Programmes 2007-2013  
Co-funded by the Irish Government  
and the European Union

# Welcome

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

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

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# “Foreword”

Welcome to the summer edition of Your EU. We are over half-way through the year and have been working hard to process new applications for both the European Union's PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes. A number of new projects were officially launched over the summer months including the 'Peace Action Zone' by the Peace Factory as well as the 'Rural Enabler' programme, which will contribute to reducing sectarianism and racism in rural communities. A new funding call was also issued in June to help develop the Creative Industries Sector. This is an important aspect of the INTERREG IVA Programme and the support available will help to increase innovation and enterprise on a cross-border basis.

Our PEACE III Conference 2010, held in May, was a great success. The major event took place in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast and attracted over 200 delegates from across Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland. At the conference Mr. Sammy Wilson, the Minister for Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland, and Dr. Martin Mansergh, the Minister of State at the Department of Finance, Ireland, praised the work of the projects and applauded their efforts in promoting peace and reconciliation across the region.

Another major conference, this time highlighting the achievements of INTERREG IVA, will take place in October at the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk. The theme of the conference will be "Territorial Cohesion in a Post-Crisis Scenario" with input from Mercedes Bresso, President of the Committee of the Regions. The event is being co-ordinated by the East Border Region with assistance from the INTERREG IVA Programme.

A series of PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Steering Committees have been co-ordinated in recent months and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of these committees. Their continued support plays an invaluable role in the successful delivery of the programmes. This appreciation must also be extended to the members of the Monitoring Committees who help to ensure that the programmes maintain the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

The SEUPB is also continuing to encourage an increased number of projects to access the Transnational (INTERREG IVB) and Inter-regional (INTERREG IVC) Programmes. The projects supported by these programmes are making significant headway and are achieving tangible results, some of which are detailed in this edition of Your EU. Our support team is always willing to discuss ideas for projects under these programmes with project promoters.

Given the present economic climate we, in partnership with our Accountable Departments North and South, are pro-actively reviewing all expenditure to maximise the amount of money allocated to projects whilst minimising overhead and administration costs. This work is on-going and will continue throughout the lifetime of the current programming period.

As always I would appreciate any feedback that you may have about this newsletter or any other aspect of our work.

**Pat Colgan**  
Chief Executive  
Special EU Programmes Body





# €1 Million Secured for Cross-border Training in Cavan

A project by the Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) Ltd has secured €1,000,000 from the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme to develop and implement a cross-border training programme. The Higher Attainment Through Training and Cross-Border Hubs (HATTCH) project will develop opportunities for business development in changing economic conditions through a range of free third-level courses starting in the autumn.

The Cavan Information & Technology Centre (CITC), in collaboration with the University of Ulster and South West College, will be responsible for training delivery. Cavan County Enterprise Board, which leads the implementation of the project engaged the CITC, given their track record in delivering relevant and custom-designed education and training programmes to managers and key personnel in businesses located in Cavan as well as the wider central border region. It is extremely important for the success of this project that the training is delivered at times and at a pace which meets the needs of the beneficiaries.

Speaking at the event where confirmation of the funding was announced, Vincent Reynolds, CEO of Cavan County Enterprise Board, said: "These three training organisations have an excellent



Cavan Cllrs Fergal Curtin (l) and Winston Bennett (r) congratulate Vincent Reynolds (centre) on the HATTCH announcement.

strategic, operational and academic fit and have a proven track record in delivering quality accredited courses designed to meet the needs of the target beneficiaries of this programme. The plan will specifically address the training and networking needs of the construction and engineering sector, migrant workers and female entrepreneurs - three groups who make sizable contributions to the economy at a local and national level but are particularly vulnerable in times of economic flux."

Delivering the news to Vincent Reynolds were Cavan County Councillors Winston Bennett (Chair of ICBAN) and Fergal Curtin.

HATTCH, the result of cross-border co-operation between the ten local authorities within the central border region, is the first confirmation of a series of projects under assessment which form the basis of ICBAN's Multi-annual Plan.

Cllr Winston Bennett said that everyone involved is looking forward to officially launching the programme and hopefully working in partnership with other ICBAN Multi-annual Plan projects to improve the quality of life and prosperity of the central border region.

For more information on the courses please contact CITC on +353 49 4377277 or [info@cavanitc.ie](mailto:info@cavanitc.ie)

# Enabling Peace in Rural Areas



(LtoR): Pat Ward, RCN Board Member; Ali McAllister, Regional Co-ordinator, Rural Enabler; Michael Hughes, RCN; Helen O'Donnell, RCN Board Member; Howard Keery, SEUPB.

**A new PEACE III Project designed to reduce racism and sectarianism in rural communities has just been launched. The initiative, called the Rural Enabler Programme, has received over £2.7 million worth of EU support.**

Speaking at the launch event in Markethill Courthouse Michael Hughes, Chief Executive Officer for the Rural Community Network, the lead partner on the project, said:

"Whilst there are many people living within rural areas who recognise that the sustainability of rural life can only be enhanced through increased integration, the availability of locally based support to make that first move is critical."

"The Rural Enabler Programme is about providing that support, assisting communities, individuals, groups and institutions to look at how things could be done differently and how things could be better in a future which is shared, inclusive and at peace with itself," he continued.

The programme will take a unique 12-county approach to supporting rural communities at a local level and is being supported by the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD), the Department of Community, Equality & Rural Affairs (DCE&RA) and Irish Rural Link (IRL).

Designed to encourage peace-building and social cohesion the project will focus on seven distinct themes including: young

people; flags and emblems; housing; interfaces; racism and community relations; community development and rural institutions.

Collectively they will help to change attitudes, overcome misconceptions and challenge many of the inherent prejudices that exist within rural communities. The programme will also help many rural communities to take the first steps needed to overcome tensions, develop increased understanding and build positive relationships for the future.

Each of the twelve counties participating in the project will be allocated an 'enabler' who will help support groups and individuals to overcome sectarian and racist attitudes.

Facilitation development grants will also be made available to enable these groups to use specific activities or bring in the specialist expertise they need to make a real difference in their area.

Working alongside existing rural institutions such as the GAA, the Orange Order, the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster and Macra na Feirme, the Rural Enabler Programme is set to make a real and tangible impact upon the lives of people on a cross-border basis.

For more information on the Rural Enabler Programme visit [www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org](http://www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org)

# Young People Learn to Cherish Peace through the Memory of Conflict

Young people from both sides of the border have recently participated in a programme to research their identity and family history, in preparation for a visit to one of the main locations of the First World War – Belgium. The objective of the initiative, funded under the PEACE III Programme, is to use the experience of Ireland's participation in the First World War to address issues related to conflict and shared history.

'Youth 52 – Securing the Future' is a three year project led by the Inishowen Development Partnership, which brings together young people and youth workers from Ireland and Northern Ireland to explore their common history. Sarah Lee Millar was part of a group including members of the Taughmonagh Youth Club and the Merville Family and Resource Centre who visited Ieper in Belgium, after completing the 13 week programme.

Talking about her experience, Sarah Lee explained how the initiative helped her rediscover her family's history: "I knew my great grandfather had fought in the First World War but I never knew much about him. I did know his name so I was able to find where he was buried, and then found out a lot about him".

"It was also good to understand more about the poppy during the project and the whole misunderstanding that it is a



Sarah Lee Millar (left) with one of the group facilitators visiting the war cemetery in Ieper where her great grandfather is buried.

protestant thing. We learned that it is an international symbol of remembrance", she continued.

The trip is part of the 'Conflict Transformation and the Messines Experience', an accredited programme developed by the International School of Peace Studies. After completing the programme, the participants are awarded an OCN Level 1 accreditation.

The activities include single identity workshops intended to challenge sectarian attitudes by looking at stereotypes and focusing on the participants' own identity. Following these, participants take part in 'Getting to know each other' workshops, where they begin to forge new relationships with young people from different backgrounds. They learn about the history of the war, the participation of members of their own family, and the history of the conflict in which Irish soldiers fought together, regardless of their catholic or protestant background.

Upon their return some of the young people engage in peer education projects and on-going contact with the communities they worked with.

# Challenge of Change: Challenging Racism



Challenge of Change Team with Mayor of Newry and Mourne and Joint Chairs of PEACE III Southern Partnership

Top row from left: Justyna McCabe, Taucher McDonald, Patrick Kelly, Kate Bingham  
Bottom row from left: Dr James McCammick (Joint Chair), Cllr John Feehan (Mayor of Newry and Mourne), Cllr Charlie Casey (Joint Chair).

**Challenge of Change is one of seven strategic priorities of the PEACE III Southern Partnership's Beyond Tolerance Strategy, and its overall aim is to facilitate greater involvement of people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities in civic, community and political life, thus increasing community cohesion.**

Tackling racism is at the core of the work developed by the Challenge of Change initiative, whose activities range from capacity-building and integration projects, through to grassroots anti-racism work at community level.

One example of the projects designed to tackle racism is the 'One Tribe' programme, which consists of a series of workshops delivered to over 1,800 students in post-primary schools across the Southern Partnership area and in the border counties of Monaghan and Louth. These workshops are specially designed to appeal to young people and incorporate a variety of activities including drama, music and group discussion.

Testament to the success of the initiative is the feedback received from the participants in the workshops. Describing what she had taken away from the experience, a young girl from Lurgan commented: "It shows that jokes can turn into something more serious and that peer pressure can lead people to violence."

"It made me realise how racist we are and I felt ashamed", added a 14-year-old boy, also from Lurgan.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that one of the main problems in tackling racism is the under-reporting of racist incidents. To address this issue, Challenge of Change has introduced an Independent Reporting Scheme for Racist Incidents and Racial Discrimination. The scheme is an independent and confidential mechanism to encourage the local community to report any racist incidents in the area.

Speaking at the launch of the scheme in March 2010, PEACE III Southern Partnership Joint Chair Dr James McCammick said: "A more co-ordinated approach to reporting racial hate crime is required in order to obtain a better understanding of the problem and to overcome reporting barriers." In the coming months Challenge of Change plans to extend the Independent Reporting Scheme to the border counties of Monaghan and Louth. In September 2010 it will organise a cross-border roundtable seminar focusing on the development of a co-ordinated approach to addressing racism and reporting of racist incidents.

A series of activities to raise awareness of the issue of racism and discrimination in the workplace, targeting local employers is also planned for the Anti-Racist Workplace Week in October 2010.

For more information about Challenge of Change please contact: Justyna McCabe, Project Co-ordinator by email [justyna.mccabe@newryandmourne.gov.uk](mailto:justyna.mccabe@newryandmourne.gov.uk) or visit [www.southernpartnership.com](http://www.southernpartnership.com)



**In recent years there has been a constant flow of migration into Ireland from various parts of Europe and beyond. Most of the people who arrive have little or no knowledge of the region, its social structure and the functioning of the national and local institutions. Aleksandra Tomal is one such person. She arrived in Sligo town, Ireland, over five years ago from Poland with very little knowledge of the Irish community into which she was going to try to integrate.**

Five years on, she is one of the people behind the Sligo Immigrant Organisation (SIO), which provides administrative support to newcomers to Sligo and also promotes the integration of the immigrant community living in the area.

Aleksandra Tomal, one of the founders of the Sligo Immigrant Organisation.

One of her most recent projects was the 'Win Together' sports tournament, which aimed to tackle racist behaviour and promote the integration of people from different nationalities by helping them overcome, through sports, differences of gender, skin colour, religion or nationality.

The tournament brought together people from over seven nationalities living in Sligo to play football and volleyball. If the enthusiasm for football was remarkable, getting the volleyball teams was a bigger challenge, possibly due to the fact that it is a less popular sport in the region. The participants also had the opportunity to participate in a workshop about racism and discrimination where they learnt how to avoid and to react to this type of behaviour.

According to Aleksandra, the idea of using sports as a catalyst to demonstrate how people can put aside their differences and work together as a team was not new to SIO. "We organised some small projects before but for 'Win Together' we teamed up with the RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment & Development) Urban Collective. They asked us to join their project, which is funded through the Sligo PEACE Partnership. This meant that we had the support of the PEACE III Programme, and so could reach many more people", she explained. "Working with RAPID was extremely important because they assisted us with the administrative and bureaucratic part of the process, enabling us to carry on with the work on the field", she added.

This project also marks a change in the direction of the work developed by the SIO. Aleksandra, who has been with the SIO since its inception, explains its evolution. "First it was a very informal group of friends with different ideas and great enthusiasm to do something to help newcomers to Sligo. This

solidarity chain worked almost like a big telephone network and was one of the reasons why we established SIO - to have all the information in one place. In time we translated some of the information, made it available in different formats and the group became a reference for the immigrant community. Recently our objectives have somewhat changed. Initially we mainly helped immigrants with day-to-day administrative issues. Now we want to effectively represent the new communities in the Sligo area and to work towards a common future."

The organisation has also played an important role in Aleksandra's own integration. This young Polish football enthusiast describes Sligo as a beautiful, lovely and quiet town where people are extremely friendly. Being involved in SIO has helped her develop many of the relationships that influence her opinion today. In addition, she argues that working on the various cases that reach the organisation helped her learn about many different aspects of life in Ireland, which she might otherwise not have come across.

She explains that today her main concerns are focused on the challenges posed to integration by the current economic situation.

"Already we are finding situations where there is friction and immigrants are accused of taking Irish jobs. This is understandable, because people are suffering and it is not easy to be unemployed, but it is unjustified. Numbers of racist episodes have also increased recently and all we can do is work even harder towards integration. These stereotypes are present in people's minds and we will not change them overnight. We need to work on them for the future," she concluded.

For more information on the activities of the Sligo Immigrant Organisation visit <http://sioinfo.com>.



## PEACE III Conference 2010



**Attracting over 200 delegates from across Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland the SEUPB's PEACE III Conference 2010 was a great success.**

Marking the half-way point of the current PEACE Programme the event highlighted the fact that over €154m (£135m) worth of EU assistance has been allocated to projects which are helping to reconcile communities and create a shared society.

Held at the Waterfront Hall, the one-day event included an interactive exhibition featuring a number of programme beneficiaries who were able to outline in person the impact that their projects are having in promoting peace and reconciliation.

Amongst these were the 'Skainos' project which has received over £6m to create a new shared community space in east

Belfast, as well as the WAVE Trauma Centre which offers counselling services for people who have been injured or bereaved as a result of the conflict.

The Department of Finance and Personnel Minister Sammy Wilson MP, MLA was invited to speak at the event, saying: "With PEACE III half-way through its available budget, there is no better time to look critically at the programme to see what has been done well and what can be done better. PEACE III must be a programme for all communities. We need to ensure it does not fall short on that goal."

Ireland's Minister of State Dr Martin Mansergh, TD, also addressed the conference, saying: "Today we celebrate the PEACE III Programme as it reaches its mid-way point. This event is about the projects and the people who make them happen."

"These projects are a testament to the commitment of the people of Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland to nurture and strengthen peace, to leave conflict behind and to build an inclusive and respectful society for all."

The out-going Lord Mayor of Belfast Naomi Long was also invited to speak at the event and underlining the impact of the Belfast Peace and Reconciliation Action plan in helping to reduce levels of sectarianism and racism across the city, she said:

"Despite recent political developments, people in Belfast still live, attend school, celebrate traditions, play sport and socialise separately. In addition to this the growing number of resident ethnic groups has seen a corresponding increase in levels of racial prejudice and reports of racial harassment."

"The Belfast Peace & Reconciliation Action Plan aims to tackle these issues and the legacy of conflict by channelling funds to front line organisations that are creating shared spaces in Belfast. We rely on the experience, expertise and innovation that the projects profiled here today bring to this ambitious task. With their help we will continue to build positive relations locally, to counter sectarianism and racism and to promote shared space in our city," she added.

During the conference international speaker Tomas Baum, from the Flemish Peace Institute, described many of the challenges involved in peace-building and conflict resolution. Kenneth Bush from the International Conflict Research Institute INCORE also outlined some of the key issues involved in measuring peace and reconciliation.

Potential new sources of EU funding, including the Transnational INTERREG IVB and Inter-regional INTERREG IVC Programmes, were also explored, alongside a number of innovative pan-European networking opportunities available to projects currently receiving support under PEACE III.

At the conference it was announced that approximately €40 to €50m (£35 to £44m) would be made available for the Phase II delivery of 14 different Peace and Reconciliation Action Plans across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. Helping to build positive relations at a local level these plans are being implemented by a network of different council clusters, with the collective aim of reducing sectarianism and racism on a cross-community basis.

For full details of the event, including presentations, audio interviews of the exhibitors and a recording of the speeches please visit [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu).



PEACE III Conference: (LtoR): Minister Sammy Wilson, Minister of State Dr Martin Mansergh, Naomi Long MP and Pat Colgan, SEUPB;

On previous page (LtoR): Minister Sammy Wilson, Naomi Long MP, Minister of State Dr Martin Mansergh, Pat Colgan, SEUPB and Maurice Maxwell, European Commission in NI



# News & Info

## AEBR Conference Planning is Well Underway

Preparation for the Association of European Border Regions' (AEBR) Annual Conference 2010 is underway and it is anticipated that the event will attract up to 250 delegates from 26 different European border regions.

The three-day event, featuring a series of seminars, will take place from 21 to 23 October at the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk.

The theme of the conference is "Territorial Cohesion in a Post-Crisis Scenario" with input from Mercedes Bresso, President of the Committee of the Regions. During the conference special emphasis will be placed upon the importance of cross-border co-operation post-2013 within the context of the current global economic downturn.

An exciting three-day itinerary, which will showcase some examples of successful cross-border economic development along the Ireland/Northern Ireland border, is also planned. The East Border Region is hosting the event with support from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

## New Stand for the Balmoral Show 2010

The SEUPB took part in the 142nd Balmoral Show at the King's Hall, Belfast alongside a number of other government departments involved in the delivery of EU structural funds.

A new stand was developed for this year's event to highlight some of the most recent projects to receive assistance from the European Union.

Attracting thousands of visitors every year, the show is recognised as one of the most high-profile public events across the region.

It also serves as an excellent opportunity for the general public to learn more about the impact of PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes, as well as provide details on how the funding can be accessed.



## PEACE III-funded Youth Project Collects Film Awards

A group of young people from Carrickfergus YMCA recently won two awards for their film 'History of Glenfield through the eyes of a teenager'. The PEACE III-funded project tells the history of the local estates in Glenfield in a film produced by a group of 20 teenagers from the Glenfield-Castlemara PAKT group, part of the Carrickfergus YMCA.

The film was awarded the runner-up award at both the Northern Ireland Youth Awards, in the 'Peace Builders' competition, and the Ulster Media Awards, in the category of Best Youth Short Film. Both are prestigious competitions with great quality submissions, which made the team very proud of the recognition their project received. When collecting the award at the Northern Ireland Youth



Awards, Marc Collins and Tom Simms mentioned that they were delighted to receive it and that it had motivated the group to do more in the community.

The film looks at the population movements from Belfast to Carrickfergus and the surrounding area and what might have motivated this flux in migration. It then looks at the life of people in the estates since they were built in the 1980s, the impact of paramilitary activity in the area, the use of symbols and murals and the changes that have happened since the peace process was initiated in 1996.

Beyond the focus on peace and reconciliation, the project enabled the young participants to acquire useful skills in the use of film and audio-visual media. As a result, the majority of them will obtain a CCEA level 2 qualification in Performing Arts.

Jermaine Coulter, who participated in the project, said: "We learnt a lot about our history, about making films and acting. And most of all, we had great fun!"

Group members at the Northern Ireland Awards event, with Martina Campbell from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

# Cohesion

# News & Info

## Peace Action Zone launched in Dungannon

**The Peace Factory recently launched its project Peace Action Zone (PAZ) in Sunnysides House, Dungannon. The project was officially launched by Patricia MacBride, from the Commission for Victims and Survivors.**

The PAZ project offers an innovative approach to health and wellbeing which aims to ease physical, mental and emotional pain and to promote mental stability, enabling people to cope with the traumatic effects of conflict. It builds on the work that the Peace Factory has been developing since it was first established in 2001 to offer support and services to victims and survivors of the conflict in South Tyrone and the wider area.

Speaking at the launch, Patricia McBride said: "I am delighted to launch the PAZ project. Success in the project lies in the fact that it not only benefits the individual but also their carers and the community in which they live. In doing so it helps to heal the individual and the communities and I'm particularly pleased to see the valuable work of The Peace Factory continue with this funding under the PEACE III Programme."



The Peace Action Zone developed a holistic approach to addressing the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual effects of trauma. The range of services provided by the project includes confidential counselling, psychotherapy, craniosacral therapy, trauma recovery alongside a wide range of complementary therapies. Its objective is to enable those most directly affected by the conflict to cope with its traumatic intergenerational effects, thereby contributing to the prevention of similar outbreaks of violence in the future. The processes adopted will be continuously refined by using various evaluation mechanisms, including direct user feedback.

The initiative will also promote networking amongst participants to enable people of diverse backgrounds and political orientation to participate together in the community, contributing to peace and reconciliation.

The Peace Action Zone is a project funded by the PEACE III Programme, under Theme 1.2: Acknowledging and Dealing with the Past, implemented by the Consortium of the Northern Ireland Community Relations Council and Pobal.

For further information, contact a member of The Peace Factory team on Tel: 028 8775 0009 email: [info@peacefactoryni.com](mailto:info@peacefactoryni.com), or visit [www.peacefactoryni.com](http://www.peacefactoryni.com)

(LtoR) Geraldine Quinn, Director of Services, Peace Factory; Patricia MacBride, Victims Commissioner; Jim Hamilton, Dungannon Council; Roisin Kelly, Chair, Peace Factory; Gordon Walker, CRC.

## Belfast is Becoming an 'OPENCity'

Project News

**OPENCities is a British Council project funded by URBACT, an initiative part of the European Territorial Co-operation Inter-regional Programme INTERREG IVC. It is led by Belfast City Council's European Unit in collaboration with a network of European cities, including Bilbao, Bucharest, Cardiff, Dublin, Dusseldorf, Nitra, Poznan, Sofia and Vienna.**

Since the Enlargement of the European Union in 2004, a host of new communities have been accessing jobs in Northern Ireland (NI). Migrants represent a significant share of the workforce, an estimated 37,000. In most cases, over-qualified migrants in NI have filled labour rather than skill shortages and have helped facilitate rapid rates of economic expansion by filling lower-skilled jobs. A third of employers say migrants have been important for company survival, and there is evidence that certain sectors could have disappeared entirely from NI in the absence of available migrant workers.

However, in spite of this, barriers to employment and entrepreneurship still exist. The OPENCities project aims to address some of these needs through the identification of the issues faced by migrant workers and the development of local projects whilst looking at best practice in other European cities.

Local support groups have been set up in each city with the aim of spreading the learning from transnational exchanges to local stakeholders, including funders and policy makers, ensuring that the lessons learnt through the OPENCities project lead to change at a local level. Each city will produce a Local Action Plan (LAP) which will form the legacy of the project.

Belfast's Local Support Group is currently working on the first stages of producing its recommendations along the three themes of the project: Leadership and Governance; Internationalisation and Integration; and Inclusion. Working groups are meeting to explore the problems and goals for each theme and plan to produce a draft plan in September 2010 for public consultation in October 2010. The final publication will map existing and new initiatives as well as solutions to problems associated with managing migration. Local pilot projects will then be identified and developed based on peer review learning, with financial support sought from European structural funds.

The first three of six meetings between the partners have been held in Cardiff (June 2009), Dusseldorf (November 2009) and Poznan (June 2010). The fourth focusing on Local Action Plans will be held in Sofia (September 2010). The project also aims to produce an Index of Openness, based on a common definition of openness for European cities.

For more information please visit [www.urbact.eu/opencities](http://www.urbact.eu/opencities)







## Northern Periphery Programme 'Phoenix 2010 Partenariat'

**In April 2010, Northern Ireland hosted the 'Phoenix 2010 Partenariat'. In the unfortunate absence of the Northern Periphery Programme Secretariat and delegates from the other eligible regions of the programme due to flight restrictions, the Department of Finance and Personnel Northern Ireland, together with the SEUPB hosted a revised 'Partenariat' for representatives from a range of organisations from Ireland and Northern Ireland.**

The purpose of the 'Phoenix 2010 Partenariat' was to bring together a range of interested organisations to discuss how the Northern Periphery Programme can facilitate bridging the gap between the traditional and the creative industry sectors, with the aim of building and developing transnational projects.

Participants received presentations on:

- approaches and strategies taken towards the creative industries in Ireland and Northern Ireland by Ian Brannigan of the Western Development Commission and Stephen McGowan of the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, Northern Ireland
- background on the Northern Periphery Programme by Teresa Lennon, Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland and Michael O'Brien, Regional Contact Point for Ireland
- summary of a range of preparatory projects including CYNERGY and PEMP which are seeking Northern Ireland and Ireland partners.

The discussions highlighted the challenges and opportunities for the creative industries sector in the NPP regions. Delegates acknowledged that increased fusions between the creative and traditional sectors could result in higher added value jobs and economic output which would be valuable in Northern Periphery regions particularly in the current climate.

During workshops, contributors identified project ideas and discussed the necessary changes and next steps to make the collaboration between traditional and creative sectors possible, thus stimulating innovation and bring economic growth to the Northern Periphery area.

Following this event, the NPP Secretariat is hoping to see formalised a significant number of new application proposals, a specific objective was to identify opportunities for projects to submit application proposals for the 6th call.

The Northern Periphery Programme's sixth call opens on 3 September until 14 October 2010. In order to assist project applicants, the Programme Secretariat is organising a "How to Apply" seminar on 16 September 2010 in Copenhagen. The purpose of this event is to assist project applicants in the development of good quality applications.

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](mailto:teresa.lennon@seupb.eu)

## Leading Ladies Share Experiences of Leadership



Marie-Thérèse McGivern (CEO Belfast Metropolitan College) with ladies from a South Belfast interface area.

**'Leading Ladies' is one of the many initiatives launched by the Irish Peace Centres bringing together local women from all walks of life, to meet some of Ireland's leading ladies. Over a working lunch these women are invited to gain insight into different approaches to leadership, conflict management and a variety of global issues.**

The project aims to develop positive relationships across traditional neighbourhood divides and give local women a chance to look beyond their circumstances and explore new ways to recognise and fulfil their potential. It seeks to do that by using positive female role models to challenge the status quo and inspire women to push forward both personally and professionally. The initiative has recently completed a successful pilot phase and will re-commence in September.

The dynamics of life in interface communities, on which the project focuses, often dictates that women do not feel empowered or inspired to look at issues and opportunities

beyond their immediate confines. The 'Leading Ladies' initiative aims to build the capacity of women in these communities to assume leadership at their own level. It seeks to facilitate engagement across traditional and emerging cultural divides.

During the final lunch of the pilot phase, Marie-Thérèse McGivern, CEO of Belfast Metropolitan College, met with women from a South Belfast interface area. This provided an opportunity for women to hear, in an informal and relaxed setting, a personal account of a woman's journey through the echelons of power to a position of leadership. It was a telling account of the challenges and realities women face, and how these challenges have shaped the lives of some of the leading women in politics, education and business.

Previous 'Leading Ladies' include Naomi Long MP and Baroness May Blood.

For more information visit: [www.irishpeacecentres.org](http://www.irishpeacecentres.org)

# Conference

## Irish Peace Centres International Launch Conference

**In March, the Irish Peace Centres (IPC) consortium organised an International Conference, with over 150 participants, to officially launch the Irish Peace Centres project. IPC seeks to cultivate and sustain positive relationships at a local level across the region and across traditional sectarian and new social divides.**

The conference, entitled 'Prejudice & Pride' explored the role of prejudice and its impact on peace-building in Northern Ireland as well as in other regions affected by conflict.

The event gathered a wide range of speakers from across Ireland as well as some international speakers who gave an overview of peace-building efforts and challenges in other parts of the world.

International speakers included former combatants Chen Alon from Israel and Nouraddin Shehadah from Palestine, who now work together in the Middle East for the peace-building group, 'Combatants for Peace'.



LtoR - Peter Sheridan, Chairman Irish Peace Centres (IPC) and CEO Co-operation Ireland; Laura Stewart, IPC consortium co-ordinator; Anthony Quinn, IPC Head of Funding & Support, Co-operation Ireland; Susan McEwen, IPC co-ordinator & Community Partners Manager at Corrymeela Community and Pat Colgan, Chief Executive SEUPB and Conference Chairman at the opening of the inaugural Irish Peace Centres International Conference in March 2010.

The conference was accompanied by a photographic exhibition made up of two separate bodies of work - the international Israeli/Palestinian collaboration 'Beware the Cost of War' and the locally developed youth project 'Draw Down the Walls'.

The IPC consortium is made up of Co-operation Ireland, The Donegal Peace Centre at An Teach Bán, the Corrymeela Community and the Glenree Centre.



## Getting The Most Out Of European Partnerships

Participants at the workshop doing a traditional Macedonian dance.

**As part of this year's Community Relations Week, Mediation Northern Ireland held a cultural afternoon with a range of different events to showcase Macedonian culture as well as highlight the work undertaken by their latest initiative, the MOST project.**

Supported by the EU's PEACE III Programme, Mediation NI is a voluntary sector-based organisation which specialises in the provision of mediation development services that support community cohesion and good relations at a local, regional and international level.

The 'MOST' project is a European and international learning and networking project that aims to tackle issues connected to segregation, sectarianism and racism.

Designed as a 46-month programme of work, the project builds upon the success of the PEACE II funded Civic Leadership initiative. The new project, which has received over £680,000 worth of support under PEACE III, focuses on the creation of

international exchange programmes; the sharing and exploring of good practice; and the training of local mediation practitioners to work abroad and within a cross-cultural basis.

The cultural afternoon served to highlight the international links that Mediation NI has already developed with Macedonia. Partly reflecting the history of Northern Ireland, Macedonia has suffered from serious community tensions between the ethnic Macedonian (majority) and ethnic Albanian (minority) populations.

The MOST project places a great deal of emphasis on mutual sharing and learning with other post-conflict and multi-ethnic societies. This information will be used in the creation of a sustainable learning curriculum and resource package for practitioners working on reconciliation and peace-building within a local and international context.

For more information on the MOST project e-mail: [patricia@mediationnorthernireland.org](mailto:patricia@mediationnorthernireland.org)