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

Summer 2012

YOUR EU!

An update on the European Union's PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes

STRIPE PROJECT
EU to Help Build Confidence
in Protestant Communities

News & Info
Clipper Homecoming Festival
hits the Foyle

Real Life Interview
Young People Driven to Make
a Difference

Small Wonders II
Cross-community Childcare
in West Belfast



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



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YOUR EU!

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

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

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Foreword

Welcome to the summer edition of Your EU!

In this edition we focus on some recently launched EU funded initiatives and look at some of the iconic events that have taken place over the last few months. It is encouraging to see so many worthwhile projects getting off the ground as we enter the final stage of the current programming period.

You will find inside some examples of PEACE III projects that have recently kicked-off and are already generating a lot of activity and interest. These include: Small Wonders II, a childcare project based in West Belfast; STRIPE, a capacity building and engagement initiative with the Orange Order; and Teaching Divided Histories, a project aimed at examining how the history of the conflict is taught within the Northern Ireland curricula. Under the INTERREG IVA we take a close look at the launch of the Energy Efficiency and Micro-Generation project, which will retrofit nine public buildings with new energy efficient materials.

Thirteen project applications are currently undergoing the final stage of assessment under INTERREG IVA's most recent call for applications. This is the final INTERREG IVA call for the current programme period and once this process is concluded, the Programme will be fully committed. To date, 85% of the funding available has been committed. The PEACE III Programme is already fully committed and the focus is now on successfully delivering the initiatives that are underway. Some new projects will be starting activity over the coming months and I look forward to sharing further details on these in future editions.

As we enter the final stage of the current programme period, we have begun work on preparation for the new programming period (2014-2020). During the months of August to October, the SEUPB will be engaging in a consultation exercise aimed at collating input from all key stakeholders on their views, hopes and expectations for the new programmes. The information gathered will be



used to help shape the size and scope of the new European Territorial Co-operation Programmes to be funded by ERDF for the period 2014 to 2020.

Finally, I would like to welcome Lorraine McCourt to the SEUPB team. Lorraine is the new Director of the Joint Technical Secretariat. I know you will join me in wishing her well in her new role.

I welcome your feedback on the articles included in this edition and wish you a lovely summer!

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body

FOREWORD...

Ministers Launch Cross-community Childcare Project in West Belfast

PROJECT NEWS

A new childcare and education facility was officially launched in April in West Belfast. Small Wonders II, which has received over £700,000 worth of assistance from the European Union's PEACE III Programme, was inaugurated by Minister Nelson McCausland, from Northern Ireland, and Minister O'Dowd, from Ireland.

The new facility builds upon the success of the original 'Small Wonders' project which has already created and sustained 15 jobs and provides 46 childcare places. Based within the Lower Shankill and Lower Falls area, 'Small Wonders II' has transformed St. Luke's Church Hall on Northumberland Street into a high quality

childcare facility for use on a cross-community basis. The facility can accommodate up to 31 daytime and 32 afterschool infant and childcare spaces.

The project was developed by the Shankill Women's Centre (SWC) and includes a fully equipped computer suite and two additional training rooms, which will be used in the provision of various IT courses designed to enhance the employment prospects of the local community.

A full-time cross-community worker has been recruited to ensure greater levels of engagement between the local Protestant and Catholic populations. This initiative provides premises at a geographical interface point which will develop and

strengthen ongoing work and interaction between the Shankill and Falls communities. Comprehensive training in a wide range of accredited qualifications will be provided at the facility including the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) course and various accounting packages.

Commenting on the success of the project, DSD Minister Nelson McCausland, MLA said: "I have long been a supporter of the work of the Shankill Women's Centre, which has unparalleled reach within the local community. The educational support, advice and guidance it has provided over the past number of years has helped transform the lives of hundreds of people.

I strongly welcome this new EU supported facility and look forward to hearing about how it will transform the lives of many more people living within the local area".

An interactive playground reflecting some of the other EU PEACE III supported projects across the region, including the Derry city 'Peace Bridge', has been built outside the facility.

For more information on the project please visit www.childcaresmallwonders.com



Minister O'Dowd TD and Minister McCausland MLA with two of the children who will benefit from the new facilities at the themed playground.
Photo: Michael Cooper

Balsam Bash

PROJECT NEWS...

Queen's University Belfast has recently invited some local citizens for a Balsam Bash activity. It may make it sound like a drastic measure but drastic measures are required to control the proliferation of invasive plant species in the region.

The Balsam Bash was organised as part of the CIRB (Controlling priority Invasive species and Restoring Biodiversity) project, which has received funding worth nearly £2.6 million to deliver a catchment based initiative to controlling and ultimately eradicating three key invasive plant species: Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam.

These invasive plants grow rapidly and take over the riverbanks preventing the growth of native species and restricting access to river users. In winter, these plants die back, leaving the riverbanks prone to erosion. Soil from the eroded banks can then clog fish spawning sites, which leads to a reduction in trout and salmon populations.

Events such as the Balsam Bash are part of a series of activities that the project team

has organised with local people, during which they provide advice on how to eradicate the invasive plants. Some of the participants included staff from the City Hotel in Derry/Londonderry who joined the project team to help remove Himalayan Balsam from the banks of the river Faughan. This followed a workshop hosted by Derry City Council.

Himalayan Balsam is relatively easy to identify and although it is a threat to biodiversity, it is not harmful to those who come into contact with it. For that reason, it was chosen for this type of demonstration. Some of the other species, such as giant hogweed, which also grows along riverbanks, pose a serious risk to human health. This plant has a toxic

sap which in contact with human skin can result in severe itching, burning and blistering, causing lesions which can persist for up to six years.

Japanese knotweed presents other challenges. It was introduced to Britain in the 19th century, as an ornamental plant and later spread rapidly throughout the islands. It presents a very expensive maintenance problem as its shoots penetrate impermeable surfaces, causing damage to buildings, roads, and walls, as well as blocking drains.

For further information please contact
Dr Catherine McGavigan on
c.mcgavigan@qub.ac.uk



Up-rooting Himalayan Balsam on the banks of the river Faughan. Derry/Londonderry. Photo: Michael Cooper

NICVA Conference Opens Debate on Welfare Reform

The Welfare Reform Bill currently progressing through Westminster has been widely described as the most radical shake up of the social security system in over 40 years. NICVA and the Law Centre (NI) held a conference in early March to open the debate on some of the issues involved in the changes to welfare reform.

The event, which was part of NICVA's PEACE III-funded Vital Links project, gave representatives from the voluntary and community sector an opportunity to hear from and directly engage with prominent decision-makers, policy-makers, and eminent

contributors to the welfare reform debate both in Northern Ireland and in the UK.

The consensus on the day was that the overly complicated and bureaucratic social security system does need overhauled, however there is much more to it than simplification. There are considerable issues to take into consideration and the potential ramifications for Northern Ireland have yet to be fully understood. Though there was agreement within the audience in relation to two things: that these changes will mean less spending power available for the economy; and that the changes are likely to impact

disproportionally on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged within society.

Seamus McAleavey, Chief Executive of NICVA, commented: "There is a real fear that the Welfare Reform Bill will have a negative impact on the people of Northern Ireland, and their lives. With the Bill expected to be introduced into the Northern Ireland Assembly this month, this event was extremely timely in opening up the debate."

Les Allamby, Director of Law Centre (NI) said: "This will be the most significant piece of welfare legislation for a generation. It is important to look at how we can take an approach that meets the needs and circumstances of Northern Ireland and this conference has given us the opportunity to stimulate this debate in advance of the Bill going to the Assembly."

This conference was part of NICVA's Vital Links project, the aim of which is to increase the interaction and understanding of the key institutions and the voluntary and community sector, and foster and promote positive engagement.

For more information contact Caroline Magee on caroline.magee@nicva.org



Political panel (LtoR): Alex Maskey MLA; Baroness Ruth Lister; Mark H Durkan MLA; Paula Bradley MLA; Director of Work and Pensions, Neil Couling, and Chair of Social Development Committee, Judith Cochrane MLA.

Halting Environmental Loss

PROJECT NEWS...

The INTERREG IVA Programme funds a variety of projects specifically aimed at addressing environmental problems. Halting Environmental Loss Project (HELP) is one of these initiatives and it looks specifically at the issue of protecting biodiversity amongst the native birdlife.

HELP is currently halfway through its implementation phase, and it is already showing some encouraging results. The project partners, RSPB NI, RSPB Scotland and BirdWatch Ireland have been working with over 300 local farmers and crofters to deliver a programme of habitat management including rush cutting, conservation grazing and scrub removal.

The main activities to date include workshops and seminars with the farmers and crofters who have signed up to provide habitat advice. Following from this initial work, the team has already identified an increase in the number of breeding waders in the land belonging to the project participants. The team has also had success in inspiring local landowners in Donegal to do all that is possible to improve conditions for the last four remaining pairs of breeding curlew in the region.

As part of the project, research is also being conducted into the food availability on Islay for young cough. In addition, the RSPB has organised walks and talks at RSPB reserves on Mull, Islay and Colonsay, in

Scotland, which to date have attracted over 62,000 visitors. The objective of these events is to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining a suitable habitat for breeding waders.

The HELP Project team is more than aware that the successes to date are down to the enthusiasm and determination of local farmers; the largest and most critical piece of the land management puzzle. Some of the unplanned benefits of HELP include the links with local schools and young farmers. "Instilling the pleasures and importance of our landscape and wildlife in young people is essential if we expect a vibrant countryside for wildlife and people", said James Robinson, Director of the RSPB in Northern Ireland.



Discussing the benefits of early cover for corncrakes on Rathlin Island.

Driven to Make a Difference

The small village of Omeath sits right on the border in Co Louth. Like many small villages in the border region, it faces high levels of youth unemployment and problems with anti-social behaviour. One of the biggest problems in the area is related to dangerous driving with many of the young people taking advantage of the jurisdictional gap presented by the border.

Recently, the town has been left shaken by the death of a young local girl in a tragic road traffic accident. On the day the accident took place, Samantha Heaney was visiting the Carlingford Fire Station with the youth group she volunteers with. The group was being given a tour of the station and a talk on road safety when the crew received an emergency call and had to rush out the door:

“It really hit home with them. They witnessed a real emergency response and sadly, due to the fact that a local girl was fatally injured in a road accident that day, it really opened their eyes to the fact that the consequences are real and happen every day.”

The group had been visiting the station as part of the

INTERREG IVA funded Driving Change project, an initiative to address both behavioural problems in relation to road safety and the co-ordination of emergency services response in the border region.

Samantha and one of her friends had started the youth group only a year earlier, to try and address the existing friction between the young people and the older population in the village.

“There had been a history of conflict between the young people in the village and the older generation, with a serious lack of communication between the two. Some of the young people are really into racing cars, motorbikes and quad-bikes and have an attraction to reckless driving which causes great consternation with the locals,” she explained.

“The benefit of being involved with a programme like Driving Change is that you are getting professional help from very experienced people and combining it with our knowledge of the people and the situation on the ground. It was great having the fire-fighters speaking to the young people,” she continued. The 26-year-old actress also described how the

opportunities presented by the Driving Change project helped her to feel more empowered in her role:

“The young people – they love it! They are very committed and excited about starting work again in the autumn. For me it has been a great help as well, especially the leadership course that Driving Change organised. When I first started I found it slightly daunting to work with young people. I’m a volunteer with no previous experience and young people can be very challenging to work with. Initially I had no idea what I was doing. I had good intentions but that was it.”

Samantha’s main goal now is to ensure the continuation of the youth group and a smooth transition from the first group of volunteers to the next. Emigration is high amongst young people in the region and this year the group will lose four of its six volunteers.

In the meantime, she is focused on delivering the art project which will be the final activity of the group as part of the Driving Change initiative. The project is an art installation on the theme of road safety and was postponed to allow for some time to pass after the tragic

accident that claimed the life of the young local girl. For Samantha this could be the start of a new phase for the group. "I would love to have a programme that brings the younger and the older people together to discuss things from each others' perspective. I think that it could begin with the presentation of the art project to the community."

Extrication training organised by the Driving Change Project in Monaghan.
Photo: Michael Cooper



Samantha Heaney,
Community Youth Worker

REAL LIFE INTERVIEWS ...

"When I first started I found it slightly daunting to work with young people. I'm a volunteer with no previous experience and young people can be very challenging to work with."

UPDATE INTERREG IVA CALL

A total of 13 project applications are currently undergoing the second stage of the assessment process, under the INTERREG IVA call. This call is expected to be the last one under the current programming period (2007-2013) and had been significantly over-subscribed. The SEUPB received a total of 91 applications with a total funding amount requested of over €212 million for a total amount available of roughly €30 million.

For stage 2 of the process, the applicants were required to submit a full business case. The deadline for this was May 2012. Following submission of this information, the SEUPB, in partnership with the Accountable Departments, will undertake the economic appraisals required to complete the assessment process.

The SEUPB is committed to issuing letters of offer to successful projects before the end of 2012.

UP-COMING SEUPB EVENTS

To highlight the incredible work that has been accomplished under Territorial Co-operation, the SEUPB will be hosting a major conference on 20 September to celebrate

European Co-operation Day. The event will be organised in partnership with the Southern and Eastern, as well as the BMW Regional Assemblies in Ireland. It will showcase the work that has been achieved to date under the programmes and highlight other potential funding opportunities.

The SEUPB is also planning a major conference to highlight the work of the 'Peace Partnerships' in November. The event will allow the partnerships to showcase their collective experiences of peace building. It will also help to increase awareness of the participative 'bottom-up' approach, which is an integral part of the PEACE III Programme.

Later this year, the SEUPB will also be carrying out a comprehensive consultation exercise for the new programming period (2014-2020). This information will be used to help shape the size and scope of any potential new funding under the European Regional Development Fund for this period. To maximise participation in this exercise, there will be a number of consultation workshops across the region on the following dates:

- 4 September, Templepatrick;
- 11 September, Londonderry / Derry;
- 18 September, Belfast;
- 4 October, Inverness;
- 5 October, Glasgow;

- 10 October, Cavan;
- 23 October, Donegal Town; and
- 25 October, Armagh.

The SEUPB will publish all relevant consultation documents on its website.

NINE BUILDINGS SELECTED FOR INVESTMENT

Nine public buildings in the East Border Region (EBR) have been selected for retrofitting work which will make them more energy efficient. The overarching aim of this €895,639 project is to enhance the sustainability of public buildings and to demonstrate how it is possible to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and consequently deliver significant reductions in CO₂ emissions; and to support the emerging micro-generation industry and encourage local enterprises to become more cost effective.

The project, funded under the INTERREG IVA Programme, will be a catalyst for the development of the emerging renewable energies through a number of 'best practice' exemplar projects, which will showcase the various technologies which are most effective in the climate in the north west of Europe.

The selected buildings were announced following an extensive energy audit of 50 council owned facilities in the

region. These include: Armagh City and District Council Offices; Banbridge District Council Civic Office; Craigavon Borough Council Civic Office; Killyleagh Bridge Community Centre; Louth County Museum; Louth County Library; Meath Co Co Office; Bangor Town Hall; Monaghan Co Co Office. The buildings will receive circa €75,000 (£65,000) worth of either energy efficient upgrades such as insulation, new windows, energy efficient boilers; or the installation of micro-renewable energy sources such as wind turbines, solar panels, photovoltaics etc. This project will also apply a consistent audit methodology to 50 local authority-owned buildings, which consume the largest amount of energy. This approach will provide councils with detailed accurate reports on the energy consumption pattern of these buildings.

The team hopes that using local buildings to which the public have easy access, will make the technologies more 'mainstream' and provide an independent impartial source of information for individuals considering such measures.

CLIPPER HOMECOMING FESTIVAL

Londonderry was buzzing with excitement recently, during the visit of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race, which included the local Derry-Londonderry yacht team.



The first Clipper crew arriving in Derry and the first official use of the EU-funded pontoon.

By the time they arrived in the Foyle, the 200 crew members had already visited 15 different countries, as part of their 11-month 40,000 mile round the world race, having departed from Southampton in August 2011.

Thousands of people had the opportunity to go onboard the yachts and meet the crews over the 10 days of the festival. Other activities such as a sumptuous Seafood Festival and concerts contributed to making this a festival to remember.

Several EU-funded projects played a role in the iconic Clipper Homecoming Festival which took place between 29 June and 8 July 2012.

One of the festival's main sponsors was MalinWaters,

the consumer brand of the Sail West project, whose main objective is to market the maritime region between the north west of Ireland and western Scotland as a prime sailing tourism destination. Also heavily involved in bringing the festival to Derry was the Maritime and Angling Tourism project delivered by the Loughs Agency, which was responsible for installing the new quay pontoon which was instrumental in creating the conditions to welcome the participating boats.

Other projects such as CIRB, which aims to raise awareness of the danger to biodiversity posed by the proliferation of non-native plants, were present at the festival with informative and interactive stands.

NEW PROCUREMENT AND TENDERING GUIDANCE

The SEUPB has recently issued revised guidance on Procurement and Tendering for PEACE III and INTERREG IVA funded projects.

Rules on procurement and tendering affect virtually every EU funded project given that all projects will be required to purchase or acquire goods or services at some point during their implementation. It is therefore of utmost importance to ensure that the rules are clear and effectively communicated to all the projects.

The revised guidance has been agreed with the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. It seeks to simplify procedures, addressing concerns that procurement and tendering procedures were too cumbersome, whilst still ensuring value for money in all contracts and purchases carried out by the funded projects.

The most significant change is the raising of the minimum procurement threshold limit to £5000 / €5000, with a simplified administrative requirement.

The new rules are effective for all contracts awarded on or after 1 August 2012. Responsibility to ensure that projects comply with the procurement and tendering regulations rests with the lead partner. The SEUPB would urge all those involved with procuring goods or services for

EU funded projects to read the revised guidance attentively.

A revised Guidance Note on Procurement and Tendering has been issued to all the lead partners for PEACE III or INTERREG IVA projects currently in receipt of a letter of offer. The revised note is also available on the website on www.seupb.eu

EUROPE DAY MARKS 0.5 BILLION IN EUROPEAN FUNDING FOR THE REGION

'Europe Day' was celebrated on 9 May across all 27 member states of the European Union. Also known as 'Schuman Day' it celebrates the birth of the EU in recognition of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, Robert Schuman, who delivered his proposal for the creation of a unified Europe 62 years ago.

In total, approximately €550 million (£480m) worth of European support has been allocated to projects across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland under the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes. The Programmes, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, have been designed to reinforce peace and stability across the region as well as promote greater levels of cross-border co-operation between Northern Ireland, the border region of Ireland and western Scotland.

To date approximately €333 million (£290m) worth of

assistance has been awarded to projects that are helping to create social and economic stability under the EU's PEACE III Programme. This represents the totality of the funding available under the Programme.

Approximately €214 million (£186m) has also been made available, from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, representing approximately 84% of the funding available. Running parallel to the PEACE Programme INTERREG IVA focuses on specific cross-border priority areas including enterprise, tourism and infrastructure development.



Pat Colgan, SEUPB, and Maurice Maxwell, European Commission Office in Northern Ireland, celebrate Europe Day.

OLYMPIC PODIUM AWARD FOR 'SPORT FOR PEACE BUILDING'

The celebrated Sport for Peace Building PEACE III project, delivered by the University of Ulster for the North East Partnership, has received a new award. This highly successful project is one of the select few to have been awarded a Bronze medal for the "Award for Creative Cultural Project" at the Olympic Podium



(L-R) Olympic Inspire Ambassador Wayne McCullough, Sport for Peace Building Project Kyle Ferguson, Host Paul Clarke, Project Manager Patricia O'Brien, DCAL Minister Carál Ní Chuilín, Olympic Inspire Ambassador Michael McKillop, Olympic Inspire Ambassador Louis Walsh and Project Officer Nicola Neill.

The Podium Awards is a prestigious one-off celebration recognising the role that colleges and universities across the UK have played in delivering the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The Sport for Peace Building project, which has already been awarded the prestigious London 2012 Olympic Inspire Mark, aims to develop a shared future using sport as a medium to improve trust and cultural understanding. The award was presented to Patricia O'Brien, PEACE III Manager at Coleraine Borough Council, at Parliament Buildings by the DCAL Minister Carál Ní Chuilín.

Patricia O'Brien said "We are delighted to receive this award. It is recognition of the hard work and commitment of our project team. The project focuses on engagement, empowerment and legacy, using sport as a medium to improve trust and cultural understanding, while developing partnerships and creating shared spaces."

To celebrate the occasion, the DCAL Minister welcomed Olympic Inspire ambassadors,

XFactor judge Louis Walsh, Olympian and World Champion boxer Wayne McCullough, and Paralympic Gold Medallist Michael McKillop to Parliament Buildings, all of whom mentioned the opportunities presented to young by the Olympics.

For further information contact Leisa Duffy on leisa.duffy@colerainebc.gov.uk

SS NOMADIC GEARS UP TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF THE TITANIC

Another key stage has been completed in the restoration of the SS Nomadic, the vessel affectionately known as Titanic's 'little sister'. The Nomadic is the last surviving White Star Line vessel in the world and the only remaining link to the ill-fated Titanic. It had been commissioned by the White Star Line in 1910 and was used to transport passengers to the Titanic from Cherbourg harbour in the north of France, one of the stop-over's before she undertook her transatlantic journey. Very few harbours at the time had the capacity to berth a ship the size of the Titanic and therefore a smaller vessel was necessary to transport the passengers to where the ship was anchored.

Work on the superstructure and repair of the steelwork has been completed and the ship is now watertight and safe for use. The next phase of the restoration involves fitting out the interior of the ship with materials that are as authentic as possible.

Once the restoration is complete, The SS Nomadic will be open to the public on the site where it currently sits in Hamilton Dock, opposite the Titanic Building. It will create a neutral space where people of different backgrounds can come together and learn about their shared history. This is one of the key objectives of the PEACE III Programme, which supports initiatives that encourage greater levels of positive social interaction and engagement on a cross-community basis.

The project is being led by the Nomadic Charitable Trust, the body set up by the ship's owner the Department for Social Development to oversee the restoration project. The Department acquired the ship at auction in 2006. The ship's last function had been as a floating restaurant on the river Seine in Paris.

Denis Rooney, Chairman of the Nomadic Charitable Trust said: "It was particular gratifying to have a Harland & Wolff team carry out the steelwork, a century on from her construction. The arrival and placement of Nomadic's funnel was a very special day for everyone associated with the restoration of the ship. To see the restoration of the familiar Nomadic profile, the lettering and famous yellow stripe really brought home the nostalgia associated with the ship and indeed the Titanic."

The project has received over £2.3 million worth of support from the European Union's PEACE III Programme.

Transnational Co-Operation . . . What's the Plan Beyond 2013?

As the INTERREG IVB and IVC programmes are trundling along towards completion, one eye is moving towards the new funding landscape beyond 2013. What will the future INTERREG IVB and IVC programme areas look like? Who will be involved and what will be their focus? Work is commencing across the Northern Periphery, Atlantic Area and North West Europe programme areas on these key questions.

Representatives from Northern Ireland will be involved in shaping these programmes over the coming year to ensure that this region can continue to participate, exchange and benefit from best practice in the areas of economic development and social inclusion across Europe. A number of events will be planned over the coming year

to ensure that stakeholders in Northern Ireland can participate in shaping the future of these programmes.

First on the list, is the Northern Periphery Programme (NPP) Annual Conference, which will be held in Londonderry / Derry on 15 November 2012. The aim of the conference is to look at the programme area beyond 2013, provide insights and best practice from the programme and to begin to develop ideas and themes for potential future co-operation. The conference will show that the Northern Periphery Programme area is in transformation from an area of peripherality to an area 'in focus'. But for the spotlight to shine even brighter on the Northern Periphery, the programme needs to continue to challenge barriers;

culturally, geographically and mentally. Opportunities come with attitude change and the programme, which first visited Londonderry at the start of this programming period in early 2007, is returning to Northern Ireland, to witness the transformation which has taken place in Northern Ireland over the past five years. It will highlight Derry as a positive example of societal transformation, which can lead the way for other parts of the NPP area experiencing the societal impact of a changing social and environmental landscape.

Further information on the conference will be available in mid September, however, should you wish to register your interest, please contact the NPP secretariat at: secretariat@northernperiphery.eu



B-Team: Committed to Sustainable Growth

Belfast City Council is leading the Brownfield Policy Improvement Task Force (B-Team), an INTERREG IVC project funded under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

B-Team provides policy support in the regions that contribute to the development of Brownfield (previously developed) sites before Greenfield (not previously developed) land, as a principle of sustainable growth.

Belfast City Council is the lead partner of the project and responsible for managing this European network. The project seeks to influence policies on Brownfield sites through the dissemination of their experience and stories of success. The project has a total budget of €2 million for a period of 3 years.

Shared workshops and events, involvement of political leaders and the networks established with new European colleagues with experience in the same subject are some of the core activities available to all the participating partners.

The objectives of the project are reached through two main

initiatives: the 'Brownfield Days' and the 'Brownfield Pledge'. The "Brownfield Days"- implemented in every partner region- provide the opportunity to evaluate the potential of extending good practices to partners in other regions. The signing of the "Brownfield Pledge" ensures long-term benefits after the project's completion by committing the partners to the improvement of their actions and policies.

The project is in the finishing phase - most of the Brownfield Days were carried out and the Brownfield Pledges are in the process of being approved. Future project activity includes the Brownfield Days in Hajdú-Bihar, Hungary on 3-6 July 2012, Brownfield Days in Belfast on 10-13 September 2012 and the Final Conference in Sevilla, Spain on 7-8 November 2012.

B-Team is a collaborative effort by 14 partners from 11 different countries: Belfast City Council/Northern Ireland, Hajdú-Bihar/Hungary, City of Oulu/Finland, Sevilla Global/Spain, City of Torino/Italy, City of Dresden/Germany, Vilnius City Municipal

Government/Lithuania, City Hall of Ruda Ślaska/Poland, Dublin City Council, Central Mining Institute/Poland, Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg Gumpenstein/Austria, Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development/Germany, Bioforsk/Norway, University of Torino/Italy.

For more information please contact Sabine Kalke, Project Manager, at kalkes@belfastcity.gov.uk or visit www.bteaminitiative.eu

PROJECT NEWS...



Photo taken on one of the Brownfield sites in Vilnius/Lithuania.

Teaching Divided Histories

'Teaching Divided Histories' is a three year project funded under the PEACE III Programme which will introduce new curriculum linked approaches to the study of conflict.

It will be run in post-primary schools in both Northern Ireland and Ireland, but also internationally. The pilot phase of training was recently completed with 61 teachers across 14 schools in Londonderry and Donegal taking part in the initiative.

The project is led by the Nerve Centre, working in conjunction with the British Council, the Curriculum Development Unit of the City of Dublin VEC, CCEA and a range of other partners. Its objective is to transfer knowledge and expertise between Northern Ireland and other societies affected by conflict. It looks at how the delivery of education and learning can be developed to promote a shared society.

The catalyst for this new approach to teaching and learning about conflict is the use of moving image and digital media. The project brings together post-primary teachers from across Northern Ireland and the border counties to develop and pilot a range of



innovative education programmes that use film, digital photography, animation, comic books and webcasting to enable young people to explore common experiences of conflict and peace building. These teachers and educators are being trained in a range of creative and critical skills so that they can use moving image and digital technologies within the classroom to liberate and empower young people to engage practically with issues of conflict and division.

Navanna Doherty, Head of History in St. Mary's College, Derry was one of six teachers from the school who took part in the project. She said: "The project has opened up

exciting opportunities to enhance pupil learning experiences and widen their understanding of divisive aspects of our history. Teachers have benefited from excellent training in digital media. We have been challenged to engage students more fully with their past through the technologies of today, in preparation for a brighter tomorrow."

Work is currently underway to secure schools for the next phase of training, which will commence in September. For further information on the project visit: www.nerve-centre.org.uk/teachingdividedhistories

EU to Help Build Confidence in Protestant Communities

PROJECT NEWS...

The Orange Order has received a grant of almost £900,000 from the European Union to help address the legacy of the Troubles in the Protestant/Loyalist community.

The STRIPE Project (Stepping Towards Reconciliation in Positive Engagement) aims to build capacity in the Protestant/Loyalist community and to help its members to develop skills so that they can play a more active role in delivering change for their own local communities.

Drew Nelson, Chairman of the Orange Community Network, said: "The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland believes there is an imbalance of weak community infrastructure, low confidence and low levels of participation within the Protestant community, particularly in interface and border areas in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The Grand Lodge also believes the Protestant community in interface and borders areas has suffered disproportionately during the Troubles."

Members of the project team also highlight the need to help these communities to understand their own identity and how the experience of the

conflict and the mistrust it generated between different communities in Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland had undermined good relations. Through a series of trainings and confidence building programmes, this project seeks to equip the Protestant/Loyalist community to be able to engage with the wider community and to move forward with inter-community and cross-border relations.

Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body, welcomed the project saying: "One of the aims of the PEACE III Programme is to promote wider engagement

and the involvement of all sections of society in the reconciliation process. The STRIPE project is a very important project for the PEACE III Programme and is indicative of the great progress that has been made in Northern Ireland and Ireland over recent years. The project is truly regional in scope and with the planned outreach to over 400 local community groups it has the potential to engage a large number of people in PEACE III Programme related activities."

For more information contact Jonathan Mattison on drjmattison@gmail.com



(L-R) Drew Nelson, Orange Community Network, Pat Colgan, SEUPB, and William McKeown, Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, discuss the details of the project. Photo: Michael Cooper

On the Footsteps of the Queen... in Ireland

Twenty five teachers and education personnel working in both primary and second-level schools in Co. Monaghan joined colleagues in Northern Ireland to participate in a residential course to examine the Queen's visit to Ireland in 2011 and explore its significance in Irish history.

The visit was organised by Co. Monaghan VEC as part of its PEACE III Project 'Building Capacity in Youth Settings'. The residential course was based in Dublin and provided teachers with the knowledge and experience to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom particularly when addressing the legacy of the conflict.

The course commenced with a visit to Glasnevin Cemetery, the first and largest non-denominational cemetery in Ireland. The group were provided with an insightful and engrossing history of the cemetery.

In the afternoon the teachers visited Áras an Uachtaráin where they were greeted on arrival by Commandant James Galvin. After a brief tour the group made their way into the city centre to

visit Leinster House. The day finished with a group discussion on the day's events and networking opportunities for the next phase of this project, historical school tours.

The second day began with a tour of the Garden of Remembrance and the Irish National War Memorial Garden, both of which played significant roles in the Queen's visit to Ireland. The next stop for the group was Croke Park which was another focal point in the Queen's visit. In the afternoon the group made their way back to Monaghan stopping along the way in the

Boyne Valley to visit the Battle of the Boyne visitor centre.

All the tours were accompanied by knowledgeable guides and a contextualisation of the sites in Irish history. The feedback received from the residential course was extremely positive. During the evaluation process one teacher from Northern Ireland stated they would 'incorporate more Irish history into their curriculum' and 'develop cross-border links with other schools'.

For more information contact Catriona Maguire on cmaguire@monaghancoco.ie



The group at Glasnevin Cemetery.

A New Language on the Edge of Europe

Arranmore Island is Co. Donegal's largest island. It is a mountainous area with poor land (rocky soil) and basic infrastructure.

The island has an unemployment rate of 45.1% which is more than five times the Irish national average - 8.5%. Situated 5 km from the Irish mainland Arranmore relies mostly on tourism for its income. (Fishing was the island's main source of income up to the 1980s but is no longer a significant industry). Arranmore has several walking routes around its 18km² area and the west of the island has spectacular cliff scenery. The island is only accessible by boat or ferry and there are two ferries providing a regular service year-round. The island population is approximately 500 but this more than doubles during the summer. There are two primary schools on the island and one second level school.

The INTERREG IVA funded Deaf Communications Infrastructure Development (DCID) Project has impacted on the lives of both students and parents in the second level school as they

participated in an ISL (Irish Sign language) course this year. The students enjoyed this extra activity which was delivered by Kevin McCauley, an ISL Tutor from County Donegal VEC.

The islanders were keen to participate in the DCID project and to get the opportunity to learn Irish Sign language. Naturally co-ordinating classes on an island demands more organisation than running classes on the mainland. The school timetable has to tie in with the ferry timetable and of course the weather can sometimes

be a major factor with rough seas making it impossible for the ferries to dock.

The tutor, Kevin McCauley, who is deaf himself enjoyed the challenge of delivering ISL on the island. Kevin was delighted with the commitment shown by all the participants as they were all successful in their first accredited ISL examination. The DCID Project is delighted with the commitment shown by Kevin in making what at times can be a perilous journey to deliver ISL to the people of Arranmore.

PROJECT NEWS...



Kevin with some of the pupils from Arranmore who took his class.

Programme Summaries and SEUPB Contacts

PEACE III

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

- Reconciling Communities and
- Contributing to a Shared Society.

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

For further information on the PEACE III Programme contact: Joint Technical Secretariat Omagh, Tel: +44 (0) 28 8225 5750 E: omagh@seupb.eu or Belfast, Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660 E: info@seupb.eu or

The Consortium Community Relations Council European Team Tel: +44 (0) 28 9022 7500 E: european@nicrc.org.uk or Pobal, Tel: +353 (0)1 5117500 E: enquiries@pobal.ie

INTERREG IVA

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

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

The Programme's two key priorities are:

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

For further information on the INTERREG IVA Programme contact:

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

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

INTERREG IVB Transnational Programmes

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

These programmes are:

- **The Northern Periphery Programme.** This €45.2 million programme aims to help peripheral and remote communities in the northern regions of Europe to develop their economic, social and environmental potential. The programme area involves parts of Finland, Ireland, Sweden, Scotland, Northern Ireland - in co-operation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. SEUPB is the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland.
- **The North West Europe Programme.** This €355 million programme aims to help make this new region more competitive, environment-friendly and cohesive by improving access to more and better jobs, enhancing the environmental qualities of the region, improving accessibility and ensuring that cities and rural areas are attractive and sustainable. The programme area is France, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland Luxembourg, Belgium, and Switzerland. The SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role.

– The Atlantic Area Programme.

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

INTERREG IVC Inter-regional Programme

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

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

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

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