



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 19th October 2017

€14.9 MILLION OF EU PEACE IV FUNDING OFFERED TO HELP HEAL DIVISION

Many people living across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland are subject to high levels of racism and sectarianism. Whilst a lot of meaningful progress has been made, the region is still developing its capacity to overcome the divisions of the past.

To help support these efforts Gina McIntyre, the CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body, (which manages the EU's PEACE IV Programme) has announced approximately €14.9 million worth of funding for 13 projects designed to help people live, learn and socialise with each other free from prejudice and hate.

Outlining the importance of the funding Gina McIntyre stated: **“Each of these projects will have a regional-wide impact in terms of building positive relations between people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds. Collectively they have the potential to make a real and positive difference to the lives of tens of thousands of people and their families. Through these projects the EU is underlining its commitment to reinforcing peace and stability across the region.”**

Together the projects aim to make a tangible and positive difference on how members of Protestant, Catholic and Ethnic Minority communities perceive, and interact with each other.

Over the next five years it will fund a number of initiatives that will encourage greater levels of cross-community cohesion and contact, on a cross-border basis. Projects supported under the call will pay particular attention to minority groups and other groups who have traditionally been marginalised by society.

Approximately €1m worth of funding has been offered to Youth Action NI to create and deliver the ‘Youth Network for Peace’ project. Designed for young people aged 15-25 years the initiative will bring together 12 cross-border youth organisations and focus on the development of good relations and peace-building skills for an estimated 10,000 participants.



Approximately €1 million worth of funding has also been offered to the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) for an initiative called ‘Crossing Borders Breaking Boundaries’ to help address the discrimination faced by EU and non-EU migrants living across the region. The project will conduct detailed research into issues which prevent the migrant population from accessing the labour market and fully integrating into society.

Match-funding for the projects has been provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland and the Executive Office in Northern Ireland.

- ENDS.

For more information please contact John McCandless, Communications Manager with the SEUPB on Mob. 07834 778018 or via e-mail john.mccandless@seupb.eu.

Notes to Editor:

*The following 13 projects will be supported under the EU’s PEACE IV Regional Programme. (Additional detail on any of the above projects is available upon request).

Project Name	Project Lead Partner	Funding Award (€)
Youth Network for Peace	Youth Action NI (YANI)	€1,078,078
Get Real	NIACRO	€763,280
PRISM – Promoting Reconciliation through Safe Mediation	British Red Cross	€670,355
Housing Association Integration Project	NI Federation of Housing Associations	€1,092,577
Reading Rooms ‘Listen, Share, Change’	NI Housing Executive (NIHE)	€1,625,838
Crossing Borders Breaking Boundaries	Migrant Rights Centre Ireland	€1,095,317
Addressing the legacies of inter-communal violence	Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation	€1,237,628



through facilitated dialogue		
Theatre Peace Building Academy	NW Play Resource Centre (NWPRC)	€859,069
Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding project	Bloody Sunday Trust	€536,715
Sport Uniting Communities	Irish Football Association	€1,746,704
The Next Chapter	Politics Plus	€1,453,226
Extern Positive Learning	Extern	€1,884,467
DARE to Lead Change	Bryson Group	€843,691

SEUPB

- The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. It is responsible for managing two EU Structural Funds Programmes, PEACE IV and INTERREG VA which are designed to enhance cross-border co-operation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society.
- The Programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and in the case of INTERREG VA, Western Scotland.
- The PEACE IV Programme has a value of €270 million and aims to address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders.
- For more information on the SEUPB please visit www.seupb.eu



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