

## **BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONS – REGIONAL LEVEL PROJECTS**

### **Building Community Cohesion through Social Enterprise Project**

#### **1. The Peace IV Programme**

The EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation is a unique Structural Funds programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. It represents the European Union's commitment to supporting the peace process across the region and was initially launched in 1995.

The PEACE IV Programme 2014-2020 represents a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investment of €229m and will provide support to projects that contribute towards the promotion of greater levels of peace and reconciliation. The Programme will also place a strong emphasis on promoting cross-community relationships and understanding in order to create a more cohesive society.

The core objectives of PEACE IV will be to support actions that will develop and deepen reconciliation between divided communities; increase tolerance and respect, promote increased community cohesion and contact, enhance cross-border cooperation and address the legacy of the past.

#### **2. Summary of Call – Building Community Cohesion through Social Enterprise Project (Pilot Project)**

The PEACE IV Programme is making a call for applications for regional projects under the specific objective:

**To promote positive relations, characterised by respect, and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.**

**The output indicator (to be achieved by 2021):**

- **Regional level projects** that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities.

Three indicators have been identified that will indicate progress towards increased good relations and respect:

- An increase in the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago from 45% to 52%.
- An increase in the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years' time from 40% to 48%.
- An increase in the percentage of people who know quite a bit about the culture of some minority ethnic communities from 30% to 38%.

These result indicators will be monitored from information collected by the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey.

**A total value of €1M (ERDF / Accountable Department match) has been allocated to this call.** The SEUPB is seeking to award funds to **one project** that will impact on a regional basis i.e. across the entire eligible area of Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

The timeframe is as follows:

- Opening Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019
- Closing Date: 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019
- Steering Committee 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019
- Workshop Date: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019

There has been a significant and sustained reduction in the overall level of violence directly related to the conflict. However, there is evidence of continued high levels of sectarianism and racism. The increasing levels of ethnic diversity alongside relatively high levels of socio-economic deprivation in some areas presents new challenges for achieving greater integration and citizenship within society. Due to the history of the division in Northern Ireland and the Border Region, some sections of society have not yet developed the capacity to deal positively with diversity and difference.

The project will support the development of social enterprises and new innovative ideas which tackle the challenges that prevent the development of cohesive communities. The project will focus on community capacity building by stimulating ideas to tackle social problems through to the development of social enterprises where they can impact on peace

and reconciliation. This will act as a means of addressing entrenched social / community cohesion problems and that will help to deliver positive change to our communities and societies.

This Call seeks applications for a project which will support the development of self-sustaining communities and cross-community partnerships through the stimulation of social entrepreneurship and innovation within the eligible region to support community cohesion. The theory of change which should underpin the project supported should emphasise the importance of contact at an individual and community level. The project supported should provide opportunities for sustained, meaningful and purposeful contact between individuals and groups of different backgrounds and where possible on a cross border basis. Through this contact the project supported should result in a reduction in isolation, polarisation, division, prejudice, sectarianism, racism and stereotypes between / among groups. The project supported will pay particular attention to minority groups and groups who traditionally have been marginalised in society so that opportunities will be created that allow for a greater degree of participation and integration in society.

A number of reports have recently been published which highlight the need for new innovative measures to support community cohesion including the Funding Peace: a report on the funding of Peace and Reconciliation work in Northern Ireland and Ireland 2007-2014<sup>1</sup> and the North Belfast Ethical Investment-EDT North Working Paper on the Social Economy<sup>2</sup> which argues that the Social Economy *'offers a pathway for development, within a materialist understanding of conflict and how segregation can be challenged within an economic context.'*

At the European level, the **EU Commission (Expert Group) on Social Enterprises and the Social Economy Going Forward (2016)**<sup>3</sup>, report by the Commission Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship (GECES) represents a call for action issued to the European Commission, EU countries and social enterprises organisations. It argues for a European Action Plan for the Social Economy and Social Enterprises, which would provide new impetus to promote an “enabling environment for social enterprises and the social economy

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.corrymeela.org/cmsfiles/resources/FundingPeace/Funding-Peace.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://nbei.profiletree-dev.tk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/NBEI-EDT-North-Working-paper-Peacebuilding-and-programme-impact-on-contested-space.pdf>

<sup>33</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX%3A52018PC0374&from=EN>

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/social-enterprises-and-social-economy-going-forward-0\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/social-enterprises-and-social-economy-going-forward-0_en)

to flourish, building on their core values such as democratic governance, social impact, innovation, profit reinvestment or the central place given to the human in the economy.”

This call is also in line with the NI Executive Draft Programme for Government<sup>4</sup> which states that *‘developing the social economy sector has been a priority for the Executive for some time and the Executive is well aware of the important and unique contribution which the sector can and does make to the local economy’*.

In Ireland, the Programme for a Partnership Government<sup>5</sup> states that *‘we recognise that economic and social progress go hand in hand. Only a strong economy supporting people at work can pay for the services needed to create a fair society. The New Partnership Government is committed to a “Social Economy” model to deliver a strong economy and a fair society.’* It is therefore clear that the social economy is seen as an important driver, not only for the economy but also in the context of building more sustainable cohesive communities.

The SEUPB will establish a Consultative Advisory Panel of key stakeholders from across the Programme area to advise on the direction of the Pilot Project and to assist with regional sharing of learning. The Advisory Panel will be responsible for ensuring that the impact of the Pilot Project is maximised by developing and nurturing a strong change and outcomes focus by the successful project. The successful project will be required to report to SEUPB and to this Advisory Panel. The Advisory Panel will ensure that the project complements envisaged or planned initiatives undertaken within the region by local authorities, government departments and agencies to support communities in relation to social enterprise.

The successful project will be expected to be involved in an SEUPB managed Exhibition showcasing regional, national and international best practice in the area of Community Cohesion and the Social Economy. The costs of this event will be covered directly by SEUPB.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/consultations/draft-programme-government-framework-2016-21-and-questionnaire>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work\\_Of\\_The\\_Department/Programme\\_for\\_Government/Programme\\_for\\_Government\\_2011-2016.pdf](https://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work_Of_The_Department/Programme_for_Government/Programme_for_Government_2011-2016.pdf)

SEUPB will commission an evaluation of the Pilot Project, this will be paid for directly by SEUPB.

### **Delivery Partners**

The delivery partner(s) must have the capacity to deliver in all of the targeted pilot areas identified and should also deliver on a regional basis (both in NI/Border Region of Ireland). The partner(s) must have the necessary experience, both in terms of building community cohesion and also in the implementation of economic development programmes which can result in long term socio-economic outcomes for communities. The partnership should also have the ability to engage with key stakeholders at a regional/programme level and also with experts and best practice at a European / global level.

This regional project will support actions to facilitate involvement from people from diverse backgrounds.

It is envisaged that this call for applications will result in one project being awarded a letter of offer to deliver the required activities and outputs outlined above and within section 7 of this Call document.

### **3. Essential information**

The call for applications should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Cooperation Programme and associated Citizens' Summary
- The Programme Rules
- Guide for Applicants
- European Commission Guidance for the Simplified Cost Options (including unit costs)
- Output Indicator Guidance

Please consult these documents before completing the application form as they contain essential information to assist you in making the best application possible.

Applicants may also find it useful to consult the 'Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross Border Cooperation'. This toolkit has been developed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies, as part of an INTERREG IVA funded project and is intended to be a practical guide to assist

with planning cross-border projects. A copy of the toolkit can be downloaded from our website: [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)

#### **4. Project Selection Criteria**

The following selection criteria will be used:

(a) Each operation will have to demonstrate how they contribute to the results and outputs of the themes.

- Particular focus will be given to the direct contribution to peace and reconciliation.
- Projects will have to demonstrate that they are creating opportunities for sustained meaningful and purposeful contact between people and groups of different backgrounds and in so doing contribute to the result and outputs of the call.
- Projects have to demonstrate their essential regional characteristics, including the rationale for regional implementation and regional impact (as opposed to local implementation and local impact). It should be noted that the project is expected to pilot a programme of activity within targeted areas across the eligible region, however, this activity must ultimately lead to a an impact at the regional level, through the sharing of learning and guidance;
- Projects should address strategic and policy issues of relevance to the region and should not be engaged in widespread service delivery at the local level.

(b) Quality of the project design

- Projects will have to demonstrate a direct link between their proposed activities and the proposed impact of the project.
- Particular attention will be given to measures to ensure the inclusion of the marginalised or other target groups.

(c) Quality of the project team, partnership and implementation arrangements;

- Projects will have to demonstrate that the project team have the right skills and experience to lead the project, and that the project structures will be able to deliver on the peace and reconciliation outputs.

(d) Value for money;

(e) Quality of cross community and cross-border co-operation with demonstrable added value;

- It is expected that regional projects should impact on the programme area. Cross border co-operation is necessary through the development of appropriate partnerships and implementation arrangements where these add value to the delivery of the Programme. The project will have to demonstrate how they will effectively ensure participation from all communities in their activities.

(f) Contribution towards sustainable development;

- Projects will be required to consider how their activity can be designed to positively contribute towards this horizontal principle.

(g) Contribution towards equality.

- Projects will be required to consider how their activity can be designed to positively contribute towards this horizontal principle.

## **5. Eligible Region**

The eligible area for the PEACE IV Programme is:

- Northern Ireland;
- The Border Region of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo).

This is a cross-border Programme and the project approved will be funded on a cross-border basis.

## **6. What is the theme “Building Positive Relations at a Local level – Regional Level Projects” going to achieve?**

Some issues and target groups can be better accommodated through regional level initiatives that transcend local authority boundaries. These regional initiatives will also facilitate cross-border co-operation. The Pilot Project will pay particular attention to minority groups and groups who traditionally have been marginalised in society so that opportunities will be created that allow for a greater degree of participation in society.

The Project should support groups particularly impacted by the legacy of the conflict such as victims and survivors and those communities with low social capital as well as those identifiable groups and networks dealing with specific legacy issues such as young and older people, women, the faith community, those suffering from physical or mental disability arising from the legacy of violence, ex-prisoners, displaced persons and former members of the security forces.

The 2 year Pilot Project should be inclusive in nature and will ensure meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between people of different backgrounds, and which have the capacity to change attitudes and behaviour. Initiatives should evidence a direct commitment to tackling real and complex issues, such as sectarianism and racism through the promotion and development of social enterprises within communities. The project must involve the optimum mix of expertise within the partnership to ensure that the latest innovation, best practice and knowledge around the social economy / social innovation and social entrepreneurship is shared within the region.

## **7. Anticipated Actions**

It is anticipated that the Programme will fund the following types of actions under this specific objective:

- A project which will reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society through the promotion of reconciliation amongst all communities;
- A project which builds, improves and sustains relationships between communities by addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance through a Pilot Project of activity addressing capacity of communities to develop the social economy. The activity undertaken must be developed within the context of a clear understanding of European and indeed global trends and developments within social economies/entrepreneurship & innovation.



## Outputs

The main Outputs that must be delivered include:

- 1 Pilot Pathway / Outreach Programme (including toolkit) developed and implemented with meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between people from different communities;
- Lessons Learned Report documenting the key learning and experiences from the pilot project;
- Pilot Website – Providing a summary of the project along with case studies associated specifically with the activity funded through the project, an overview of the Pathway Programme and to aid dissemination across the eligible region.

## Mandatory target regions for the Pilot Project

The Pilot Project, whilst having a regional impact in terms of sharing best practice and in terms of the location of the pilots, must target a minimum of two of the following areas in Northern Ireland and at least one pilot must take place in the Border Region of Ireland:

For the Northern Ireland areas, a minimum of two of the following Urban Village areas must be targeted<sup>6</sup>:

- Greater Ardoyne and Ballysillan (North Belfast)
- Bogside, Fountain and Bishop Street (Derry~Londonderry)
- Colin (West Belfast)
- EastSide (East Belfast)
- Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Markets (South Belfast)

Applicants may wish to target all of the above areas e.g. one Community Business and Social Enterprise Capacity Building Delivery Agent covering Belfast and one covering Derry/Londonderry/Donegal (North West).

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/urban-villages-initiative-strategic-frameworks>

At least one pilot must take place in the Border Region of Ireland. Applicants may wish to present a programme which covers all border counties or may wish to focus their Pilot Project on cross border geographic areas e.g. the North West of the region covering Donegal / Derry-Londonderry.

It is anticipated that the objectives will be achieved through one single project which will deliver a programme of activity encompassing the following:

1. A cross-community programme of delivery implemented within key targeted geographic locations in Northern Ireland and the border region to pilot an innovative approach to the development of community cohesion through the stimulation of ideas tackling social challenges and the building of capacity communities with regards to the social economy where it can support community cohesion.
2. The programme should be designed to be outcomes-focused, delivered in a number of key targeted geographic locations identified by SEUPB (some of which are specified below) but also having at its core an ability to share the learning from the Pilot Project across the Programme area.
3. This Project must include a number of key features which include:
  - i. The development of a Pilot Project of activity across each of the mandatory regions selected and other pilot areas identified by the project. The Pilot Project should have regional coverage across the programme area;
  - ii. The identification and/or placement of *Community Business and Social Enterprise Capacity Building Delivery Agents* as part of an outreach Programme within the specified targeted geographic areas and other pilot areas identified by the project. The delivery agents must work within communities to promote and support the social economy where there are peace and reconciliation benefits;
  - iii. Workshops and Information Seminars to promote the Social Economy within the targeted communities, with a specific focus on using the social economy as a driver for Community Cohesion and peace and reconciliation;
  - iv. Piloting of innovative models within communities to stimulate and develop ideas which tackle social challenges, particularly where these challenges can lead to improved good relations between communities;

- v. A 'Pathway' approach should be developed and tested as part of the pilot. This should encompass a roadmap / toolkit to help with engagement on a cross community basis with people and organisations to bring social economy ideas to reality. This will contribute to the outcomes focus of the pilot project;
- vi. Engagement activity with local and regional authorities and agencies as part of this process to ensure joined-up delivery and to test the Pilot Project effectively.

With reference to the above key features, the successful project must show how it will take into account European and global trends in relation to the development of social economies/entrepreneurship & innovation.

Activities may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Study Visits<sup>7</sup> – engagement with regional, national and European best practice;
- Professional expertise – development of business plans.

The Pilot Project should have a timeframe of 24 months (2 years).

The Pilot Project should seek to create a space to test models which stimulate and develop ideas which lead to the creation of new and/or the development of existing social enterprises which support a more cohesive society. The fostering of sustained cross community contact around the social economy should ultimately lead to improved good relations and more robust, sustainable communities.

## **8. Budget and co-financing rate**

A total value of €1m (ERDF / Match) is available under this call.

The level of grant aid may also be adjusted to take due account of state aid and/or anticipated future revenue streams. Please consult the Programme rules for further details.

Grants and payments may take any of the following forms:

- (a) Reimbursement of eligible costs actually incurred and paid;
- (b) Standard scales of unit costs;

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<sup>7</sup> European travel must be well justified, particularly from a peace and reconciliation viewpoint

(c) Flat-rate financing, available for overhead costs or salary costs.

The above options may be combined only where each option covers different categories of costs or where they are used for different projects forming a part of an operation or for successive phases of an operation.

For planning purposes applicants are to use an exchange rate of £1 = €1.18.

A successful project, where there are cross-border partners, will be issued with a Letter of Offer in Euro. A successful project that has Northern Ireland partner(s) only, may request a Letter of Offer in Sterling.

### **8.1 Simplified Cost Options (SCO)**

In order to simplify the administration of grant aid, the SEUPB would propose to use simplified costs options for the administration of this theme. Simplified costs will be established during the application process in consultation with the successful applicant and in accordance with the European Commission's guidance. It is envisaged that the relevant simplified cost options will include both flat rates and unit costs, as outlined in the Programme Rules.

### **8.2 Flat Rate**

Office and administration costs (overheads) will be funded at a flat rate of 15% of direct salary costs. No justification is required.

### **8.3 Unit Costs**

The use of unit costs, where applicable, is desirable in this area of the programme and, accordingly, applicants are encouraged to present unit costs. Where applicants take this opportunity, unit costs are to be presented and evidenced in accordance with the European Commission's guidance for the preparation on unit costs.

Unit costs must be:

- Fair – based on reality, not excessive or extreme
- Equitable – it does not favour some beneficiaries or projects over others
- Verifiable – determination of flat rates, standard scales of unit costs or lump sums should be based on documentary evidence which can be verified.

Applicants must document as a minimum:

- The description of the calculation method, including key steps of the calculation
- The sources of data used for the analysis and the calculations, including an assessment of the relevance of the data to the project(s), and an assessment of the quality of the data
- The calculation itself to determine the value of the Simplified Cost Option (unit cost).

The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) specifies that the following may be used in evidence to support Simplified Cost Options:

- ‘Statistical’ data or other objective information
- The verified historical data of individual beneficiaries
- The application of the usual cost accounting practices of individual beneficiaries.

When providing calculations of unit costs, applicants must provide accounting data over at least three years so as to identify any potential exceptional circumstance which would have affected costs in a specific year as well as the tendencies in the cost amounts.

Where unit costs are presented, applicants will be able to suggest modifications to the overall financial allocations.

## **9. Application process**

A one stage application process will be in place for this call. Full details of the assessment process, including admissibility criteria, is also available in the Guide for Applicants.

You can apply on line through the SEUPB website, for further information please see [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)

## 10. Contact Us

For general enquiries about this call please contact the SEUPB on: Tel: + 44 2890 266660

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