



YOUR

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

Summer 2019

EU!



New Shared Space Project Launched in Monaghan



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2014-2020

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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. 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 Secretariat functions for the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Territorial Co-operation Programmes (2014-2020). It also has a signposting and supporting role for projects wanting to engage with the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Inter-regional Programmes.

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Welcome to the Summer edition of Your EU!

Welcome to the summer edition of Your EU. You may notice a slight change to the front cover. We decided to refresh the magazine in time for the summer and hope you enjoy the new look.

I am pleased to share a number of developments since our last edition. Most notably in March we delivered a special showcase exhibition, featuring a small example of some of our fabulous PEACE IV and INTERREG VA projects. The exhibition was part of the annual St Patricks Day celebrations, organised through the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels and took place on Friday 15th March. There was an impressive attendance, with over 100 EU dignitaries including Ambassadors, Commission staff (REGI), MEP's and other Commission officials. You can read more details about the success of the event on page 10.

We have launched a number of funding calls over the last few months, including the Population Health call, (under the Health and Social Care objective of the INTERREG VA Programme) which closed at the end of March. Applications are currently under assessment. Two new funding calls under the Building Positive Relations objective of the PEACE IV Programme closed at the start of July. They included the 'Building Community Cohesion through Social Enterprise' (pilot project) and 'Building PEACE through Emotional Resilience for Today and the Future' calls. Applications will be assessed over the coming months.

These are very significant funding calls which will lead to some fantastic new projects that will help to transform the lives of hundreds of citizens, on both sides of the border.

I am also delighted to be able to announce the official launch of the Monaghan Peace Campus, one of the first shared space projects under the PEACE IV Programme. The project will develop much needed community space, in a neutral setting and in addition will include a youth facility, a new town library and a cultural heritage area. This appears on our front cover and you can learn more about it on page 5.

Over the last few months I have had the privilege of helping to launch two extremely important environmental projects under the INTERREG VA Programme, SWELL (Shared Waters Enhancement & Loughs Legacy) and SeaMonitor, which will help improve water quality and protect endangered species. These are exciting examples of how cross-border partnerships and combined expertise are helping to safeguard our shared natural environment. Read all about the SWELL project on page 6 and turn to page 14 for the SeaMonitor project.

Progress has commenced on the development of the new PEACE PLUS Programme. This future programme will build on the work of previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes between Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. It will contribute to social, economic and regional stability in the regions



concerned; in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities. The development of the programme content will be subject to an extensive and robust consultation process with our stakeholders and a public consultation process during the winter months. This process will be managed by the SEUPB on behalf of the European Commission, the UK and Ireland.

The INTERREG VB/VC projects that we offer a signposting role to are continuing to deliver significant outputs. The total ERDF committed to Northern Ireland (NI) partners (as of May 2019) stands at €16.1m, with over 70 partners now implementing projects.

One such project is the Maritime Ocean Sector and Ecosystem Sustainability (MOSES) project. Turn to page 19 to learn how this project is using Belfast Harbour as a case study to develop integrated marine sustainability assessment toolkits and transition plans.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy this edition of Your EU. If you have any feedback or comments about it and/or future editions, then please do get in touch with us at communications@seupb.eu.

GINA MCINTYRE
Chief Executive, SEUPB

Marine Project Delivering Cross-Border Outreach Work to Primary Schools

The €1m cross-border System for Bathing Water Quality Monitoring project (SWIM), which is representing a real step-change in how bathing water quality is monitored, recently engaged pupils in an exciting project.

St Patrick's Primary School in Glenariff and Scoil Chríost Rí, Enniscrone in County Sligo were specifically selected to take part in the project due to their proximity to Waterfoot and Enniscrone beaches. Both schools hosted weather stations, providing an exciting opportunity for collaboration and teamwork. Pupils worked together to pull the data from their local SWIM weather stations and compared and interpreted the results.

Speaking about their involvement the principal of St Patrick's Primary School, Roisin McCarry, commented: "At the minute, St. Patrick's is the only school in this area to have a weather station. We worked with our partner school and SWIM project partners; University College Dublin (UCD); Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) to devise some practical worksheets that would allow us to use the collected data from the weather station for future projects centring around the weather and the environment".

Also reflecting on their participation in the project, Grace Mulligan, principal of Scoil Chríost Rí, Enniscrone, noted: "It was a unique



From (l-r): Grace Mulligan, Principal Scoil Chríost ri Enniscrone; Enda Killoran, Sligo County Council; Levent Gorgu, UCD; Gregory O'Hare, UCD; Rosemarie Gannon, UCD; and Debra Castles, KNIB; along with some of the young participating pupils.

opportunity for the pupils to use the weather station as a rich source of learning. It was carefully woven into a six week programme that was replicated with our counterpart school. The pupils really enjoyed sharing their findings with St Patricks Primary School."

The SWIM project is currently developing a facility to enable bathers to check the water quality of their chosen bathing spots live before taking a dip. The project has recently launched its specially designed app on the Apple and Google Play Stores. It will initially provide the DAERA's and the EPA's weekly water quality results, for the nine cross-border beaches included in the project, until the prediction model is further tested. The app also includes a dedicated events section where you can find out useful information about local events, making planning a day out at the beach that much easier.

The infrastructure required for the water quality prediction has included weather stations and associated river sensors and gauges for the nine designated SWIM beaches (Enniscrone, Co Sligo; Lady's Bay, Co Donegal; Castlerock, Co Antrim; Portrush, Curran Co Antrim; Waterfoot, Co Antrim; Ballyholme Co Down; Ballywalter, Co Down; Newcastle, Co Down and Clogherhead, Co Louth).

Regular updates on the project can be found on the website: <https://swimproject.eu> and facebook and Twitter @ EUSWIMProject

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Ireland.

New Shared Space Project Launched in Monaghan

A new, €9.5m PEACE IV funded shared space project (Monaghan Peace Campus) will bring a much needed neutral space to Monaghan.

With a total project cost of €14.5m it will provide a new, three storey, integrated shared space, with indoor community facilities; and external community space that has been specifically designed to create social interaction and encourage cross-community engagement.

The project will utilise this space for a range of activity programmes designed to bring people together on a cross-community and cross-border basis, seeking to dispel myths and build relationships in both the local and wider community.

In addition to the development of the much needed community space the project also boosts a youth facility, a new town library and a cultural heritage area.

The Peace Campus was a collaboration piece between lead partner Monaghan County Council and its steering committee / stakeholders, including local schools; as well as a range of cross-community groups.

Speaking at the projects launch the Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council, Councillor David Maxwell said: "The Peace Campus project was developed to address the needs that still exist in our communities



The new Peace Campus will bring a much needed neutral space to Monaghan.

today such as issues of segregation, fears to engage and an unwillingness to express identity. This project will allow all communities to come together to engage in a safe setting. It will be of major significance as it is the first time that the Orange Order and the Ulster Scots Agency have engaged in a Peace Programme in County Monaghan."

Also speaking at the launch Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB noted: "Unfortunately our society remains deeply segregated, which reduces the opportunities for many citizens to mix with, understand and learn from each other. This only serves to perpetuate a cycle of division which prevents us from making new and positive relationships with people

within our local communities, who are from a different background or culture, or hold different views. Projects like this, within the PEACE IV Programme, will help to end that cycle as it will break down barriers, bring people together and help combat prejudice and intolerance."

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland and the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland.

EU invests €35m to improve water quality in Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle

A major cross-border project is aiming to improve water quality in Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle through enhanced wastewater treatment.

The €35m INTERREG VA funded Shared Waters Enhancement & Loughs Legacy (SWELL) project will see the construction of new wastewater treatment works, as well as upgrades to sewerage networks on both sides of the border. Such measures will help address wastewater pollution in Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle.

The four-year project is being led by Northern Ireland Water working in partnership with Irish Water; the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI); Loughs Agency; and East Border Region.

The project will culminate in the development of a unique environmental legacy model that can be used to target future investment to achieve further improvements in water quality in these shared waters.

Underlying the importance of the funding Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "Nature does not respect geographical borders between regions, therefore cross-border cooperation is vital if we are to help protect our shared environment.

This project represents a significant and long-term investment from the European Union in the water quality of the entire region. It is a testament to what can be achieved when two jurisdictions work together to help address a common problem."

Officially launching the SWELL project, Eoghan Murphy, TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government in Ireland, stated: "Without safe and reliable water and wastewater infrastructure, social and economic development cannot happen. So I am pleased to be here today to officially launch the SWELL project which will play an important role in improving water quality in Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle through cross-border partnership working."

The project will involve a total of eight wastewater infrastructure

projects, as well as catchment studies and ecosystem modelling, within the Carlingford Lough drainage basin (within Newry, Mourne & Down and Louth council areas) and the Lough Foyle drainage basin (comprising Derry City & Strabane and Donegal council areas).

The improvements to the wastewater assets will help raise the current EU Water Framework Directive status from 'moderate' to 'good'.

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government in Ireland and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.



The €35m Shared Waters Enhancement & Loughs Legacy project will improve water quality in Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle.

Regional Project to Reconnect Communities Impacted by the Legacy of the ‘Conflict’

A new £1.2m project, known as Building Positive Relations will reconnect and reintegrate individuals and communities impacted by the legacy of the conflict.

Led by Ashton Community Trust (ACT), in partnership with Coiste na nIarchimi network; Veterans for Peace; the Irish Immigration Advisors; and the Belfast Conflict Resolution Centre, the regional work is seeking to dispel myths and allow relationships to be built which will benefit not only individuals, but also their wider social support network. Its areas of impact will include: Dundalk; Letterkenny; Derry/Londonderry; Leitrim; Monaghan and Belfast.

Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: “This project will help to address many of the complex needs of the ex-political prisoner community by challenging some of the stereotypes and stigma that they face on a daily basis.”

“Working with the community, it will coordinate regional-wide events and conferences on conflict resolution and peace-building. The project also recognises many of the mental health issues which affect the projects participants leaving them highly vulnerable to becoming socially isolated. To help alleviate this it will provide counselling and resilience building support” she continued.



Guests gather at the launch of the Building Positive Relations project to learn just how it will make an impact on the lives of hundreds of people on a cross-border basis.

ACT Chief Executive, Paul Roberts, described the project as important bridge building work: “Despite elements of perceived difference, in the history of our work we have identified there are substantial commonalities affecting these same areas. These everyday common themes focus on social; economic; housing; dereliction; lack of inward government investment; employment; and poor health.”

“Taking part in this project will offer individuals the chance to address the past in a substantial way and we feel it will be welcomed especially

by communities who want to move forward. This work will also have a positive influence on society at large, and will contribute to ongoing processes aimed at ensuring the past is not repeated” he continued.

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

EU Funding Helping to Pro

What is the future of fisheries management?

Marine species face extinction!

Plastic pollution could treble in a decade.....

Every day we see headlines related to the marine environment, but might not necessarily understand their significance.

The simple fact is marine ecosystems are experiencing an unprecedented loss of biodiversity and species due to the large scale and far-reaching effects of human activities.

Internationally, there are a number of drivers leading to the requirement for national structures to support marine resource planning and management.

Legislation has moved towards an integrated approach to the



COMPASS scientists at work.

improved management of marine resources (EU's Atlantic Strategy and Action Plan).

The environmental objective of the INTERREG VA Programme has granted a unique opportunity for Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland to work together to improve the management of marine protected areas and species.

Your EU recently posed some questions to Adam Mellor from the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), who is helping lead an ambitious €6m project, funded under the INTERREG VA Programme.

Known as COMPASS (Collaborative Oceanography and Monitoring for Protected Areas of Species) the project is multidisciplinary.

It involves an array of scientists working on:

- Ocean acidification
- Ocean chemistry
- Ocean modellers
- Ocean physics
- Data scientists
- Salmon & migratory fish specialists
- Marine mammal & acoustics experts

Together, each of the partners in the project will establish a network of oceanographic and acoustic moorings to develop cross-border marine protected areas (MPAs).

The project will produce new marine monitoring data for emerging areas of environmental concern including;



One of the monitoring buoys equipped with oceanographic sensors, acoustic recorders and advanced fish tracking technology.

ocean acidification and the long-term impacts of anthropogenic noise on marine life.

What's your take on the multidisciplinary collaboration?

"A project that requires the diversity of science to meet these goals would not be possible without the broad expertise found across a number of research institutes. From the projects outset, we established an open and engaging culture amongst the scientists.

The knowledge, passion and commitment of many of the individuals can be quite infectious and at the same time quite humbling, and this offers some comfort as coordinating between institutes and disciplines can sometimes be demanding!"

It's a tall order to lead such a pioneering project. How did you get involved?

"The consultation process identified that the INTERREG VA call wanted to support the management of protected areas and species across borders. However, to design a project

Protect Marine Ecosystems

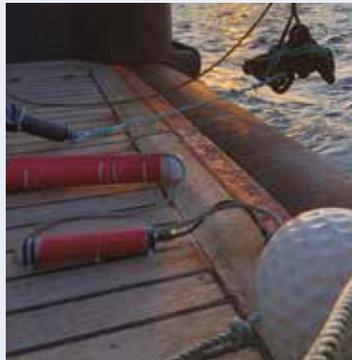
that delivers on such areas meant that we had to assemble the right project team.

I have led the COMPASS partnership from the start, and my role has really been to identify and coordinate the projects activity. This has largely involved getting the right experts from the partnership to ensure the science work is well designed and executed.

My background began with a Marine Science degree at Newcastle-Upon-Tyne before I worked for a project overseas. Following this I worked in research for two UK universities before undertaking a PhD at QUB. Since then, I have worked for QUB and the Northern Irish Government departments designing and implementing oceanographic and acoustic monitoring programmes to support the management of our marine environment.”

Your day job would probably be very different to most. Is that true?

“Getting my hands dirty at sea or working with data isn’t always as much of a feature in my day-to-day routine as I would like, but rubbing shoulders with brilliant people both within and outside of my organisation is very rewarding. I love being out on the sea, with something that ‘needs’ doing; a little bit of pressure is good, and the challenge of working in the marine environment brings a real sense of achievement when you deliver. The marine science sector seems to attract resilient and



Application of acoustic and oceanographic moorings.

creative individuals who are (nearly!) always fun to work with. Currently I am working with partners on building a bespoke new data-buoy, which feeds my hunger to tinker with technology.”

The project has officially completed two years and started delivering some data. Can you share some of the main findings?

“We’re just getting into this phase now – data is flowing in and we are in the early days of analysis.

This is timely as it is like a tonic for tired scientists. I have literally been grinning from ear-to-ear as some of the project’s scientists have presented preliminary findings.

We’ve generated the first quantitative data about the marine survival of migratory sea-trout smolts, tracking them between Ireland and Northern Ireland as they return to their breeding grounds.

We have also delivered the first

structured network of hydrophones in the region which are now starting to provide data about the occurrence of endangered species of whales such as Humpbacks and Fin whales.

Oceanographic moorings often operate independently, generating long-term data-sets on ocean and atmospheric climate. COMPASS is networking these moorings so that everyone has better access to this data in a much more standardised format, and the expertise involved in ensuring all of the data is fit for use on the international forum is impressive.

Within the partnership, we’re sharing expertise on how to use new instruments for climate-change related research and enhancing observation programmes for ocean acidification. The COMPASS modelling work has already been involved in investigating the possible source of the rare beaked whales that died in 2018 and stranded around the coasts of Ireland and Scotland.”

What is your hope for the projects impact beyond its duration?

“COMPASS will deliver a clearer understanding of what changes in the oceanographic climate may have on underwater habitats, fauna and flora across the region. Coordinating scientific activity and outputs between Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland is key to achieving our impact.”

Special St Patrick's Day Showcase Exhibition

The SEUPB was granted the opportunity to deliver a special showcase exhibition, featuring PEACE IV and INTERREG VA projects, as part of the annual St Patricks Day celebrations organised through the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive.

The event, which took place on Friday 15th March, was attended by over 100 EU dignitaries including Ambassadors, Commission staff (REGI), MEP's and other Commission officials which included Sue Gray (Permanent Secretary for the Department of Finance Northern Ireland) and UK Deputy Ambassador to the EU, Katrina Williams.

PEACE IV exhibiting projects included:

- Dare to Lead Change - which is seeking to promote positive relations between Catholic; Protestant; and Black & Minority Ethnic people across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland).
- Collaboration through Sharing in Education (CASE) – which is enabling 377 schools and 135,000 pupils to take part in shared education through 163 school partnerships.
- Peace Bytes – which is utilising a combination of technology and traditional youth work methodologies in order to target, recruit and retain young people



PEACE IV and INTERREG VA projects were able to discuss the wide number of benefits of their projects to key influential figures during the special celebration event.

aged between 14 and 24 years old.

- Monaghan Peace Campus – which will create one new integrated shared space, with indoor community facilities; and external community space that has been specifically designed to create social interaction and encourage cross-community engagement.

INTERREG VA exhibiting projects included:

- The Eastern Corridor for Medical Engineering (ECME) – which

will create improved healthcare pathways for cardiac related health conditions by carrying out fundamental research and developing commercially focused platform technologies.

- Ulster Canal Greenway – which upon completion, will have constructed 22km of cross-border greenway from Middletown in Co.Armagh to Smithborough in Co.Monaghan.

BBC Filming of PEACE IV Projects

In March, as part of the BBC's Crossing Divides series, Mark Easton (BBC Home Editor) visited three different PEACE IV projects in an effort to learn about the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Mark, who was in Belfast 21 years ago to report on the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, decided to visit once again to observe peace efforts across the region.

Mark began his visit by meeting with a number of participants taking part in the children and young people Journey's project to learn just how it is tackling the bigotry of the past and ensuring it is not inherited by the next generation. One of those participants was 22 year old Conor Loughlin who recounted the first time he had ventured into a protestant neighbourhood, just a minute's walk away.

"It was so, so hard. Even though it is the same road, you get shivers and stuff."

Conor recalled how he was greeted at the security gate by Sammy, a

protestant boy he had gotten to know on the course.

"That was amazing, someone just coming and saying, OK you are safe. That there was just one of the best moments for me. I'd never had a protestant looking out for me and they actually cared about me."

Mark then travelled up to Derry/Londonderry to meet with participants on the Theatre Peace Building Academy, including writer and director Jo Egan. Jo penned the *Crack in Everything*, one of four plays to be delivered as part of the project.

"We might not be able to change past events, but we can change how we see them," she explained. "This is the power these stories contain," she continued.

On his final visit Mark met with a number of parents enrolled on an educational course as part of the regional Shaping Ourselves and Our Children project.

The project is currently providing a child development and cultural

diversity programme to parents in order to change parental attitudes, allowing them to have a positive influence on their children.

Father of five, James McLaughlin, reflected: "It has been sort of bred into people. This is our chance to break the mould, to open them up to different cultures and religions. Hopefully, they will have a better future because of it."



Mark Easton meets with participants from the children and young people Journey's project.



As part of his visit Mark interviewed Marjorie Lesley, victim of the Claudy bomb, as well as Martin McGavigan, brother of Annette McGavigan who was killed in the bogside aged 14. Martin was joined by his daughter Maria.

Parents from the Shaping Ourselves and Our Children project had the opportunity to reflect upon their experiences as part of the special child development and cultural diversity course.



INTERREG VA Project makes a pit-stop in Pittsburgh

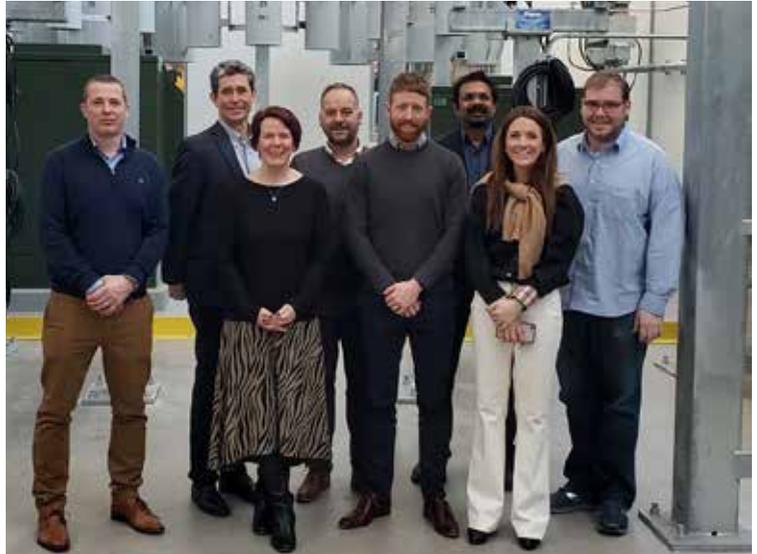
The €5.8m, INTERREG VA funded, Renewable Engine Programme recently had a very productive visit to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh as part of the university's annual CMU Energy Week.

The Renewable Engine Programme is creating a research supercluster, with cross-collaboration between academic and industrial partners in the West of Scotland, Northern Ireland and the six border counties of Ireland.

After some extensive research into the current renewable energy landscape in Pittsburgh, a visit was arranged to progress future collaboration and build international traction.

The group had a room next to where the conference was taking place, allowing them to attend some of the relevant sessions and meet with attendees. Pauline Murray, R&I Co-ordinator at Advanced Forming Research Centre Strathclyde was even invited on stage to introduce one of the panel sessions.

Speaking about the time in Pittsburgh Pauline reflected: "We had a very busy week, with meetings and visits with: the National Energy Technology Lab (NETL); Eden Hall at Chatham University; Sustainable Pittsburgh; Energy Innovation Centre; Pittsburgh University; GAI Consultants; Duquesne Light Co, Smart Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh



The €5.8m Renewable Engine Programme had a very productive visit to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh as part of the university's annual CMU Energy Week.

Regional Alliance; Catalyst Connections; Pennsylvania Manufacturing Fellows Initiative; and with Mayor Bill Peduto."

"As well as looking at energy, we also met with others at Carnegie Mellon who are involved in Additive Manufacturing and 3D Printing," she continued.

Discussing the visit Pauline said: "The outcomes of the week are still being defined and explored but we are already concentrating on some joint funding opportunities from both sides, as well as student & staff internships both at academic and industrial partners."

Led by South West College, in association with partners at

Advanced Forming Research Centre Strathclyde; Strathclyde University; Queens University Belfast; and IT Sligo, upon completion the Renewable Engine Programme will have 57.05 research years by 12 PhD researchers; as well as four post-doctoral researchers and three principal investigators.

In addition, it will provide non-financial support to a minimum of eight industrial partners and financial support to a minimum of four industrial partners.

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland and the Department for Economy in Northern Ireland.

Radio YNP - The Voice of Young People

SEUPB recently took a visit to Youth Action NI's flagship radio station.

Radio YNP is a youth-led online radio station developed as part of the €1m, PEACE IV funded Youth Network for Peace (YNP) project.

Led by Youth Action NI, the YNP project is helping to connect and engage young people from both sides of the border, raising awareness of the issues facing young people in their local areas.

The station was set up in May 2018 by Seán McDonnell.

Seán came to interview for the position with no business degree or

driving licence (both were stipulations on the job description), however Seán came prepared with designs for how the station should look and work. The recruitment panel was so impressed they offered him the job.

Today the studio looks exactly the same as it did in Seán's designs.

The station is produced and managed by 10 young people from the YNP project and has approximately 8,000 listeners.

As well as featuring live music sessions, political debates and blockbuster reviews the station provides young people with the

opportunity to interview local politicians and celebrities.

So far the station has been visited by politician Mike Nesbitt; Irish actor Kieran Hynes; Cool FM Pete Snodden; and NI Commissioner for Children and Young People Koulla Yiasouma.

Thanks to EU funding the radio station has constantly been developing. A new app was recently launched and can be downloaded on the Googleplay or I-tunes Store.

Check out Radio YNP's website to learn more and listen online: <http://www.radioynp.com/>



SEUPB intern Natalia Popielska interviews Seán McDonnell over his involvement with Radio YNP.

New €4.6m Marine Project - First of its kind in Europe

A unique, €4.6m INTERREG VA funded marine project (known as SeaMonitor) will help to better understand and protect vulnerable marine life in our oceans.

The groundbreaking project, which is the first of its kind in Europe, is being led by the Loughs Agency in partnership with eight leading marine research institutions (Marine Institute; Queens University Belfast; Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI); University of Glasgow; University College Cork; Galway Institute of Technology; Ocean Tracking Network - Dalhousie University; and University of California Davis).

Studying the seas around Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland, the project will deliver Europe's largest

telemetric marine array and spatial models supporting the conservation of basking shark; skate; salmon; seals and cetaceans.

In addition, it will also provide three Management Plans; one for skate in the area from Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura; and two for salmon in both the River Foyle and Clyde estuaries.

The investment will extend the existing network of 'smart' buoys and oceanographic models, delivered by sister projects COMPASS and MarPAMM, so that a line of acoustic receivers runs between the island of Ireland and Scotland.

Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, said: "The maritime territory across Europe

is at risk from multiple challenges and must be protected for future generations of citizens.

This tri-regional project will help to safeguard our precious shared marine environment by providing much-needed management and conservation work that will protect priority species and habitats, across Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland."

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Ireland.



Pictured launching the SeaMonitor project are (l-r): Colin Armstrong, DAERA; Dr Pieter-Jan Schön, AFBI; Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB; Dr David Bailey, Principal Investigator University of Glasgow; Ross McGill, Loughs Agency; Dr Peter Heffernan, CEO, Marine Institute; Joe Mahon; Sharon McMahon, Loughs Agency; and Dr Robert Rosell, Principal Investigator AFBI.

BAFTA Winning Film and Theatre Maker Involved in PEACE IV Play

BAFTA winning film and theatre maker Robert Rae recently collaborated on the production of *Blood Red Lines*, one of four plays being delivered as part of the PEACE IV funded Theatre and Peace Building Academy project.

The play, which opened in February 2019, centred on people with lived experience of the tragedies of south Armagh, Dublin and the Border Counties during the darkest days of the Troubles/Conflict.

The Theatre and Peace Building Academy project is allowing reflection; active dialogue on consequences of conflict, and is helping build techniques to engage with painful memories.

Across the projects lifespan it will:

- Recruit eight local artists and a range of internationally based artists, with significant experience of utilising arts activity in conflict areas of social breakdown throughout the world.
- Engage 76 cross-community participants.
- Deliver four touring Multi Media Theatre productions and eight non-touring Multi Media Theatre productions (through local projects).
- Secure audiences of approximately 4,000 people.



Peter O'Connor, a victim of Kay Tavern bomb Dundalk 1975, shares his story with the group.

Lead partner, the Playhouse in Derry-Londonderry is collaboratively working with Holywell Trust; Thomas D'Arcy McGee Foundation; and Queens University Belfast to deliver the two and a half year project, which will work with representatives from interface and highly segregated

areas; historical atrocities; victims and survivors; and the public sector.

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



Discussing his experience is Aidan Shields, who lost his mother, Maureen Shields, in the Dublin bombings in 1974.

New Inclusive Cross-Community Youth Project Launched

A PEACE IV funded project for young people in Belfast, Fermanagh and Derry/Londonderry, known as HEROES, will provide opportunities to take part in activities such as music, visits to historical sites, community fundraising and after-school groups.

The Helping Equality, Respecting Others, Enabling Success project will support young people, including those with learning difficulties through personal development, citizenship and good relations opportunities.

Outlining the importance of the project Margaret Kelly, Director of Mencap NI said: "We want young people from all communities and abilities to get involved so they can develop their confidence, have new experiences and build positive relationships that will last beyond the projects end date."

"HEROES has provided a wonderful opportunity to ensure that young people with learning difficulties benefit from PEACE IV funding. These young people experience many of the same legacy issues as other young people, but without programmes specifically designed to include them it can be difficult to access the help and support available to others," she continued.

Also reflecting on the projects importance was Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, who noted: "The EU's



Pictured at the project's official launch event are (l-r): Taylor Healy, youth participant from Derry/Londonderry; Leanne Massey, Director of Joint Secretariat SEUPB; Keelan O'Hagan, youth participant from Derry/Londonderry; and Margaret Kelly, Director of Mencap NI.

PEACE IV Programme recognises the importance of young people, specifically the role that they can play as agents of positive change. Change in themselves, as they gain new skills and confidence, and also change in society as they bring home what they have learnt to their friends and families in order to create a more peaceful and cohesive society. This is an inspirational project and I would congratulate everyone who has taken part in it to date."

The project is being led by Mencap NI in association with project partners; Londonderry YMCA; Devenish Partnership Forum; and the Health Service Executive.

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Northern Ireland Executive in Northern Ireland and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in Ireland.

Ageing Well with Youthful and Energising Council Project

“I never thought I would enter a gym again let alone do exercise classes in my eighties!”

“Getting out to do something completely different and meeting new friends is very exciting!”

These are just some of the comments from a selection of participants taking part in Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership’s Peacing Ages Together project.

Just one of the projects under the Mid and East Antrim’s Borough Council’s £3.1m PEACE IV Action Plan, this unique cross-community programme aims to run a series of new social activities for older people.

15 new partnerships have been created across the area, joining groups from the towns, villages, churches, and associations together to explore the similarities and differences, combat loneliness and isolation in older people’s lives.

In June, over 300 older people from Larne, Carrickfergus and Ballymena gathered together to celebrate the friendship and amazing achievements that have been produced over the past year.

All participants were involved in 10 sessions together, ranging in activities including, disco trampoline, creating art projects, learning skills, tasting foods from all

around the world; and learning contemporary dance routines. Vital funding went into transport to connect people across the three towns.

Without doubt the project has developed unique new friendship networks across the community. It has empowered participants to build stronger local connections; become more physically active; learn new skills; and most importantly enjoy new experiences.



Water Quality Environment Project Engaging with Local Primary Schools

As part of the €13.8m INTERREG VA funded CatchmentCARE project a number of local primary schools within the projects three catchment areas took part in a seven week educational programme between April and June 2019.

Led by Donegal County Council, in partnership with eight cross-border partners, the CatchmentCARE project aims to improve water quality in the important cross-border river systems at the Arney; Blackwater and Finn Catchments.

This will be achieved through three policy actions, six catchment actions and three community actions.

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council are helping to develop a range of CatchmentCARE education programmes and have introduced this pilot in the hope of capturing the learning potential of the project to roll out over the next three years.

Among the schools taking part in the educational programme were:

- Florencecourt PS & St Mary's PS, Killesher (Arney Catchment);
- Carrtall PS, Clogher, St McCartans PS, Clogher & Augher Central PS (Blackwater Catchment); and
- Scoil Naisiunta Colmcille, Fintown, Scoil Naisiunta An Choimin, Commeen & Scoil Naisiunta Tabhog, Cloghan (Finn Catchment).

Educators from the River Blackwater Catchment Trust visited the schools where they delivered a range of topics from: general introduction to water; water cycle; local rivers and associated wildlife - to more detailed information on river studies and measurements; looking at pollution; as well as river bank erosion and how it affects the river system.

The programme included several site visits including a local river close to the schools, where pupils carried out monitoring and invertebrate studies, as well as a visit to Marble Arch Caves where the children learned about the underground cave system and discovered how groundwater flows and moves both temporally and spatially.



Scoil Naistiunta Colmcille enjoying their visit to Marble Arch Caves to study groundwater.

The pupils worked on the construction of a story map of their local river system and worked with 'Gardiner Mitchell Photography' to narrate drone and wildlife footage of their river. These short films were screened at a special



Pupils for the pilot programme schools enjoy watching the river film and drone footage as part of the celebration day.

celebration day which took place on Wednesday 19th June at the Mellon Country Inn, Omagh.

The specially commissioned catchment films (one each for the Arney and Blackwater catchments, and Irish and English language versions for the Finn catchment can be seen at CatchmentCARE Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/catchmentCARE

Match funding for the CatchmentCARE project has been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Ireland.



Alyn Jones (River Blackwater Catchment Trust) carrying out invertebrate studies with pupils from St Mary's PS, Killesher.

Belfast Harbour Focus for Transnational Project

The €2.2m Maritime Ocean Sector and Ecosystem Sustainability (MOSES) project is funded by the EU INTERREG Atlantic V Programme (2014 to 2020) and involves eight partners representing the five member states of the Atlantic Area.

Led by the Socio-Economic Marine Research Unit (SEMURU) at the National University of Galway, Ireland, the multinational partners of MOSES include representatives from France; Ireland; Portugal; Spain; and the United Kingdom. Such representatives come from universities, marine research institutions and regional bodies.

The aim of MOSES is to understand and quantify the sustainability

dimension of 'Blue Growth' with respect to the potential environmental impacts of key strategic marine sectors, and will result in the development of integrated marine sustainability assessment toolkits and sustainable transition plans using case studies.

'Blue growth' is defined as growth that does not interfere with the marine environment's long-term ability to continue to deliver ecosystem services.

As part of the Queen's University Belfast (QUB)-led work package, a number of key marine sectors are being used as case studies through which to identify Blue Growth (sustainable) Pathways.

Belfast Harbour, in Northern Ireland, has been selected as a case study and will be used to critically evaluate the potential opportunities and challenges facing the ports and shipping sector in transitioning towards more sustainability.

Expected outputs include the MOSES-QUB team assisting Belfast Harbour, in collaboration with local stakeholders, to design a transition pathway towards the sustainable development and operationalisation of port and shipping activities in the long-term.

Find out more about this project via:
Website: <http://mosesproject.eu/>
Twitter: @atlanticmoses



The MOSES Team.

Programme Summaries and SEUPB Contacts

PEACE IV

The €270m PEACE Programme 2014-2020 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.

The Programme's key objectives are:

- Shared Education
- Children & Young People
- Shared Spaces & Services
- Building Positive Relations

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

For further information on the PEACE IV Programme contact:

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

INTERREG VA

The €283m INTERREG Programme 2014-2020 has been designed to address many of the developmental problems which are exacerbated by the existence of borders, in order to build upon opportunities for enhanced economic and social development across the region.

The Programme's key priorities are:

- Research & Innovation
- Environment
- Sustainable Transport
- Health

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).

For further information on the INTERREG VA Programme contact:

Joint 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
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INTERREG VB Transnational Programmes

The SEUPB has a role supporting the development of projects submitted to any of the INTERREG VB/VC Programmes.

These programmes are:

The Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme

This €56million ERDF 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 cooperation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. SEUPB is the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland.

The North West Europe Programme

This €370 million ERDF programme aims to help make this new region more competitive, environmentally 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

The 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 EUROPE Programme

The €359 million ERDF INTERREG VC 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 28 EU states, plus Norway and Switzerland.

For further information on VB and VC Programmes, contact:

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