

YOUR EU!

An update on the European Union's PEACE and INTERREG Programmes
SUMMER 2017



EU project improves water quality from 'source to tap'



Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 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!

As we move through the summer months both PEACE IV and INTERREG VA projects have also successfully moved through their assessment phases and are beginning to launch.

The INTERREG VA Programme is almost entirely committed and significant work is well underway in the assessment of applications under PEACE IV, with multi-million euro projects being appraised under the 'Shared Spaces' and 'Regional Level' objectives of the Programme.

Recent awards under INTERREG VA include a significant investment of over €20m for a number of environmental projects.

These ground-breaking projects include; 'Source to Tap', which will significantly improve the freshwater quality within the Derg and Erne catchment areas and CABB, (Co-operating Across Borders for Biodiversity), which will help recover protected habitats (active raised and blanket bog), and priority species (breeding waders and marsh fritillary) at key sites across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

In our last edition we reported on a number of funding awards, including approximately €47.5m of INTERREG VA funding to eight cross-border health and social care projects and

£13.4m PEACE IV funding to support the health and wellbeing of victims and survivors of the troubles/conflict. In this edition you will find updates on the progress of these projects, with interviews from the Victims and Survivors Service and Aileen O'Donoghue, CEO of the Changing Lives Initiative, which will support children and families affected by ADHD through the adoption of revolutionary early intervention treatments.

Being invited to attend project launches and meet the people involved in the delivery of the projects is one of the most rewarding aspects of the job. Since the publication of our last edition I have attended a number of project launches under the PEACE IV Programme, including those in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Mid Ulster Council and Derry and Strabane District Council.

INTERREG VA Programme launches have included the environmental projects SWELL (Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Agency) and 'Source to Tap'.

It is also a very exciting time for the SEUPB corporately as we have launched our brand new website. After much consultation and extensive design work we feel that the new site will be much more responsive to the needs of our



stakeholders. It is easier to navigate and contains a wealth of information about the Programmes we manage.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy this edition of Your EU and welcome any feedback you may have as to its content.

Gina McIntyre
Chief Executive, SEUPB

A Wave of New Energy with €9.3m Bryden Centre Project

€9.3 million of EU INTERREG VA Programme funding has been offered to Queen's University Belfast for the 'Bryden Centre for Advanced Marine and Bio-Energy Research' project, which will create a 'virtual centre of competence' to support cross-border research into bio-energy and marine-based renewable energy sources.

The project will create the largest amount of cross-border research in this specific area to date, recruiting 34 PhD students and six post-doctoral research associates to produce industry relevant research which has the potential for strong commercial benefit. Research will include the use of tidal power at Strangford Lough and the North Antrim Coast and the potential for wave and tidal power generation in Donegal, with findings benefiting many SME's struggling to enhance their innovation capacity within the renewable energy sector.

Welcoming the project Ireland's Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Mary Mitchell O'Connor, said: "I am delighted that my Department is co-funding this initiative together with our counterpart Department in Northern Ireland. The project involves practical cross-border cooperation which will benefit colleges and companies from both jurisdictions. Advanced research



Celebrating the official launch of the €9.3m EU funded 'Bryden Centre' project are (l-r) Dr Dermot Leonard, Head of Business Alliance, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body, Sam McCloskey, Director of CASE Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy and Professor James McElroy, Acting Vice Chancellor Queen's University, Belfast.

on Renewable Energy is a very worthwhile project and this work will contribute many benefits, including a long term legacy for the future."

The Bryden Centre was named to pay tribute to the dedication of the late Professor Ian Bryden, who was a leading expert in marine renewable energy. With over 30 years of research experience in energy and hydrodynamics, and a wealth of knowledge gained acting as Vice-Principal (Research) at the University of the Highlands and Islands, Mr Bryden played an instrumental role in developing the project that now bears his name.

Discussing the funding award Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, reflected: "The region has a low level

of industry-relevant Research & Innovation within the renewable energy sector. The Bryden Centre project will help address this issue by creating a new centre of competence made up of dedicated PhD students creating high quality research with strong commercial potential."

"This is one of the core objectives of the EU's INTERREG VA Programme as it has allocated a total of €71.7 million worth of funding to enhance and develop the Research & Innovation capacity of businesses on both sides of the border."

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

€8.1m EU Investment in Cross-Border Environment Project

€8.1m has been offered under the INTERREG VA Programme to support the development of a new cross-border environmental project that will protect endangered species and restore natural habitats.

Called CANN (Collaborative Action for the Natura Network) the project will be led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and will include a consortium of leading government, local authorities, research institutions, community groups and charities from across the region.

Overall, CANN will produce seven species action plans and 25 conservation action plans covering over 25,000 hectares of land designated as being a 'Special Area of Conservation'.

A number of education and outreach programmes will help increase awareness of potential threats to natural habitats and endangered species and will assist local communities in gaining ownership over their impact on natural habitats.

The protection of habitats and species within the projects jurisdictions will allow the region to meet targets set under the EU's Birds and Habitats Directives along with the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

Discussing the funding, SEUPB's CEO Gina McIntyre said: "This project brings together a range of partners with an impressive depth of experience in the field of environmental protection. By working in collaboration with each other they will be able to make a real and lasting difference on both sides of the border."

"This approach is reflective of the core objective of the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, which has been

designed to support the creation of a more sustainable and prosperous cross-border region."

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in Ireland along with Scottish Natural Heritage.



Pictured announcing €8.1 million worth of EU INTERREG VA funding for the cross-border environmental CANN project are (left) Councillor Gillian Fitzpatrick, Chairperson for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Gina McIntyre, Chief Executive Officer of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

Funding Update for Victims and Survivors

In late 2016 £13.4m was awarded under the PEACE IV Programme to support the health and wellbeing of over 17,000 victims and survivors of the troubles/conflict on a cross-border basis.

Delivered by the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS), the project will benefit a total of 17,650 victims and survivors and members of their families across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

The project will; provide an Advocacy Support Programme delivered by 25 trained advocacy workers to 6,300 beneficiaries; create a Network of Health and Wellbeing Caseworkers to assist 11,360 individuals; develop a

Resilience Programme with over 1,000 planned resilience interventions and establish Research, Regulation and Standards in line with national and international best practice to ensure victims and survivors are receiving quality services in a consistent and standard way irrelevant of location.

Commenting on the project the CEO of the VSS Margaret Bateson said: "Through this invaluable funding the VSS are delighted to be able to provide support to 16 community and voluntary organisations across the region to employ Health and Wellbeing Case Workers and Advocacy Support Workers. This new and innovative network will play a key role in ensuring victims and

survivors have access to high quality services and support that will meet their complex and growing needs."

"In addition, it will support victims and survivors engaging with new and existing bodies involved in historical investigations and narrative associated with the conflict/troubles."

The project is due to be launched in the autumn and match-funding has been provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department for Rural and Community Development.

VSS VICTIMS & SURVIVORS SERVICE

'Cleaning Up' Cross-Border Water with EU Funding

The highly innovative cross-border project 'Source to Tap', which will improve freshwater quality within river basins in the Derg and Erne catchment areas, has been offered €4.9m as part of the EU's INTERREG VA Programme.

In partnership with NI Water, Irish Water, Agri-Food Biosciences Institute, Ulster University, East Border Region and The Rivers Trust, the project will explore sustainable, cost effective measures to reduce pollution in shared catchments, and secure safe drinking water sources, ensuring compliance with the EU's Drinking Water Directive.

'Source to Tap' will work with farmers and other land managers to help reduce the volume of pesticide and soil filtering into the watercourse and will also pilot measures with forestry operators to reduce water pollution caused by forestry felling and replanting operations.

In addition, the project aims to restore 135 hectares of land adjacent to watercourses back to natural peat habitat. Such measures will naturally filter the water and reduce the amount of silt entering watercourses.

As a direct result of the project sustainable catchment management



Pictured (l-r) celebrating the €4.9 million EU INTERREG VA funding offer for the Source to Tap project are Head of Quality and Compliance Dymphna Gallagher at NI Water; Chief Executive Officer Gina McIntyre at the SEUPB; and Environmental Strategy Lead Trudy Higgins at Irish Water.

solutions will be created that can be shared across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

Commenting on the benefits of the proposed project SEUPB's CEO Gina McIntyre said: "Both Ireland and Northern Ireland share a large number of freshwater river basins which provide quality drinking water for an ever-growing population. It is therefore of mutual benefit to ensure that this precious resource is protected now, and for future generations."

"This project will safeguard our drinking water through a series of new and creative practices, developed on a cross-border basis. This collaborative-based approach lies at the very heart of what the EU's INTERREG VA Programme has been designed to achieve."

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

Changing Lives: New EU Funding for Children & Families with ADHD

According to reports, behavioural and mental health disorders 'have become a public crisis and by 2020 are likely to surpass physical illnesses as major causes of disability'.

The dramatic rise in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) reflects this trend.

ADHD is the chronic, debilitating childhood disorder which has a substantial effect on many aspects of a child's life, from family and school life to their social environments. It is characterised by considerably high levels of impulsivity, hyperactivity and inattention.

Medication is currently the standard form of treatment. This treatment is not effective in all cases.

In recent times international guidelines have called for the adoption of high quality parenting programmes to be deployed as the first step in the treatment of children diagnosed with ADHD.

A new and innovative project, which will work towards placing parenting programmes firmly on the 'treatment map', has been awarded over €2m under the EU INTERREG VA Programme. Your EU recently spoke

to Aileen O'Donaghue, CEO of the projects lead partner Clondalkin Behavioural Initiative Ltd – Archways Ireland, to learn more about it.

Tell us, what's the project about?

"The project is called The Changing Lives Initiative and will develop a new early intervention service for families with a child (aged anywhere between three and seven) with a pattern of behaviour consistent with Hyperkinetic disorder/ ADHD. Particular focus will be on those from disadvantaged areas in Louth, West Belfast and Argyll and Bute."

Who is involved?

"We are extremely lucky to have developed some fantastic cross-border relationships through our previous work. We are pleased to be working in partnership with the Dundalk Institute of Technology, the Louth Leader Partnership, NHS Highland: Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership and the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership."

How did the project develop?

"A couple of years ago we undertook a pilot programme for parents with a child with ADHD. It was clear that parents were concerned about supporting their children effectively with many expressing fears over the possibility of their children going on



Aileen O'Donaghue, CEO of the projects lead partner Clondalkin Behavioural Initiative Ltd – Archways Ireland.

medication and the lack of non-pharmaceutical treatment options available to them. In talking with them and providing a high quality parenting programme they noted very positive results."

"These issues were also identified by our cross-border colleagues. Based on our collective experience, when the EU funding call went out we submitted our application based on the earlier research that had been conducted".

What's significant about it?

"There is a real need to increase the current treatment options. In the South there is a long waiting list, with over 30% of children being referred to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) for ADHD.

and Project to Support

These figures are mirrored in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

If we can take children out of that system, even bring that figure down to 10%, with the remaining 20% having successfully undertaken a community based non-pharmaceutical treatment, we will provide not only a beneficial alternative to medication but also a much more accessible, cost effective option for families.”

You talked about different initiatives, what will these be?

“The project is really a two pronged approach: upskilling parents and upskilling early year providers and teachers.

An information and awareness programme will be rolled out to 2,000 families, and will consist of modules covering the symptoms of ADHD, current treatment approaches and the adoption of parenting strategies.

A screening programme involving 1,400 families will test if children have hyperkinetic disorder, with an information and support service provided to those who have tested below the threshold required for an assessment of ADHD. Where appropriate, referrals will be made to appropriate community services for those who fall beneath this threshold.

560 families will progress from the screening test to participate in a 20 week ‘Incredible Years ADHD Parent Programme’. This has been specifically designed to clinically treat children with ADHD symptoms and will include sessions dealing with problem solving, anger management and parental stress.

50 professional teachers and early year providers will participate in an extensive training programme to increase their awareness of ADHD. This training cannot be accessed anywhere else and will hopefully improve the referral system.

For children who don’t benefit from the programme referrals to CAMHS or other appropriate services will be made.”

How will you measure the success of the project?

“The project will include a comprehensive evaluation including pre and post testing and a process and cost effectiveness evaluation. In the second year of the project we will hold a major conference to disseminate the findings.”

If you could jump forward 10 years, what would you hope to see?

“I hope that this project will develop a momentum, engaging people’s interests and build enthusiasm for looking at new services to address this issue. I want it to have an impact on how local health services meet the needs of children with ADHD. We want to convince government’s that there is a better, lower cost way to deliver services to children with ADHD.”



2,000 families, with a child diagnosed with Hyperkinetic Disorder (a strong indicator of ADHD) are set to benefit from the project.

SEUPB Attends Learning Camp for Young Entrepreneurs

In March SEUPB attended NILGA's (Northern Ireland Local Government Association) All Island Learning Camp conference.

The event, 'Pathways for Young Entrepreneurs in Outlying Areas', brought together representatives from across Northern Ireland and the Kerry regions and was part of the flagship iEER project, funded by the EU's INTERREG VA Programme.

The project, involving 10 regions, was developed in pursuit of one goal, to significantly boost ecosystems in regions for young entrepreneurs.

The project's partners include universities, local and regional authorities, entrepreneurship support organisations and SMEs, all of whom work together to share knowledge that will build better services and regional policies in support of start-ups.

Learning camps are a key element of the project, bringing together project partners to study best practice and identify what makes or breaks budding businesses.

During NILGA's five-day learning camp participants took part in a number of workshops, best practice

visits (including one to a thriving outlying enterprise area in the Kerry region), project partner meetings, talks and networking events.

NILGA have been working hard to foster programme level development around young and municipal entrepreneurship and in 2015 achieved the "European Entrepreneurial Region of the Year Award", an accolade that is bestowed upon the most outstanding strategies that foster entrepreneurship and promote innovation among small and medium enterprises (SMEs).



Young entrepreneurs were the topic of conversation at NILGA's recent 'All Island Learning Camp' conference event.

Derry City and Strabane District Council Celebrate EU Funding Award

Derry City and Strabane District Council celebrated its receipt of £6.1m worth of EU funding under the PEACE IV Programme with a special launch event in the Waterfoot Hotel, Derry-Londonderry, at the end of June.

The 'Café Culture' style half-day conference was attended by community and youth organisations, volunteers and individuals throughout the Council's immediate cross-border areas.

Welcomed by Mayor Maoliosa McHugh, delegates 'visited' 12 specific PEACE IV Programme round tables, where they were able to learn more about the various aspects of the Programme and how to engage and benefit from it.

Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, was herself a guest speaker on the day and provided a detailed insight into the history and impact of the PEACE Programme to delegates. During her speech she reflected:

"Local authority-led partnership played a key role within the previous PEACE Programme, in terms of ensuring that money was distributed at a local level, where it could make the most impact. As such they will play a similar role under the new PEACE IV Programme, for the Derry City and Strabane District Council area."



The Mayor, Councillor Maoliosa McHugh, pictured at the launch of the SEUPB PEACE IV funding offer, with (l-r) Kevin O'Connor, Head of Business DCSDC, Sue Divin Programme Manager PEACE IV, Gearoid O hEara, Co-Chair PEACE IV Partnership Board, Gina McIntyre, CEO, SEUPB, John Kelpie, Chief Executive Derry and Strabane District Council and Alderman Drew Thompson, Co-Chair PEACE IV Partnership Board.

"Representing the public, private and community sectors this partnership is ideally placed to ensure that EU funding is invested within community-based projects that will make real and lasting change," she continued.

Also speaking on the day was John Kelpie, Chief Executive of Derry City and Strabane District Council, who stressed the importance of this EU funding for those across the "entire council area from rural areas, towns and villages and in the city."

He went on to note: "Our programme was developed in direct consultation

with local communities and includes grant aid opportunities for local community organisations and tendered programmes with community and youth impact, as well as a number of council led initiatives for children and young people, sports development, capital works, community planning and community development. Peace funding is strongly focused on reconciliation, challenging prejudice and promoting understanding of diversity and good relations."

Brexit is the Talk of Dundalk

SEUPB's Chief Executive Officer, Gina McIntyre, recently contributed to a special 'Brexit and its Border Implications' conference in Dundalk, reflecting on peace building and cross-community capacity building across the region.

The invitation to speak came from Michael Smyth (Vice President) of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The Committee is a consultative body that gives representatives of Europe's socio-occupational interest groups and others a formal platform to express their points of views on EU issues. Its opinions are forwarded to the Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament.

Gina McIntyre's intervention at the event was chaired by Jane Morrice, a long standing member of the Committee with many years experience of the Northern Ireland peace-building process. After her presentation Gina participated in a panel discussion with Seamus McAleavey, Chief Executive of NICVA and John Patrick Clayton, from UNISON NI. The theme of the discussion was 'Peace, Communities and the Role of the EU'.

The location of the event held important significance, having being the place where the 'New Cross Border Agreement' was signed in

2011 between Louth Council and Newry and Mourne District Council – which then marked a major step forward in promoting cross-border partnership in the border region.

Upon the request of the Committee the SEUPB also invited representatives from the EU PEACE III funded Castlesauderson International Scout Centre to speak at the end of the conference.

Officially opened in 2012, the centre has been used to bring thousands of young people together who ordinarily would never have been given the opportunity to interact with someone of a different background. Acting as a 'shared space', it has helped to forge new and positive relationships with young people on a cross-community and cross-border basis.

Speaking at the event Mr Luca Jahier, President of the Various Interests Group of the Council, said: "One thing is certain; most of the consequences of Brexit will be felt by smaller actors such as SMEs, families, individuals and locale communities. What of the Rights of individuals? Employment rights, consumer, safety, all the EU rights that UK citizens enjoy as a result of EU Membership? How will these rights be upheld post EU membership?"



Mr Luca Jahier speaking at the event.

"This is now the time and responsibility of civil society, local government and citizens to become more involved in the Brexit debate. It is you who will drive change, with bottom-up initiatives which respect the opinions and rights of local people. As another one of your famous literary figures, Oscar Wilde, stated: *The world is a stage, but the play is badly cast.* It is time for some new actors."

SEUPB Launch New Corporate Website

After months of hard work the SEUPB has finally launched its brand new corporate website. The new look website features information on past and current programmes, latest news and events and links to its social media channels. It will provide users with an easier to follow navigation system and contain regular updates on the delivery of both the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes.

Speaking about the work that went into the development of this website SEUPB's ICT Manager Michael Tsang commented: "The development and integration of this new website was a complex task. Our previous website was about 10 years old, so a lot of



information had to be gathered and pulled together, as well as running rigorous testing."

"I'm very pleased and proud of how

it looks and I know it will make a real difference to promoting the work of the SEUPB in terms of telling people about the benefits of EU funding."

Health and Social Care Funding Call Open

The second funding call under the 'Health and Social Care' objective of the EU's INTERREG VA Programme officially opened on 18th July.

The call is worth €12.4m and will help to positively transform the health and well-being of thousands of people across the region.

The call relates to cross-border interventions to prevent ill health and

support services for socially isolated disabled people of all ages.

SEUPB recently held a workshop in Belfast which provided potential applicants with more information on what the call entailed and how to apply. The event was attended by a large number of representatives from the health and social care industry across Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland.

The call will close at 3pm on Tuesday 19th September 2017.

For more information visit:
<https://seupb.nics.gov.uk/iva-funding-call-information>.



Second funding call open for Health and Social Care.

Mid Ulster Benefits from £2.8m of PEACE IV Programme Funding

Mid Ulster Council recently held a launch event to announce the award of £2.8m of funding under the PEACE IV Programme to support its efforts in building peace and reconciliation.

Over 100 local people gathered to learn about the programme which included details on how it will be implemented over the course of its three year period, beginning with a small grants application programme for the voluntary and community sector.

Speaking at the launch event Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, said:

“I am delighted to be able to help celebrate the EU funded work that will be undertaken by Mid Ulster District Council.

The PEACE Programme is unique across Europe and represents a lot more than just financial support. It will help to create strong partnerships with many different groups and organisations, who by working together, will reinforce peace and stability across the region.

This is one of the key benefits of the programme as it creates new

relationships built on mutual trust, respect and understanding.”

Also speaking at the launch was Councillor Kim Ashton, Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, and a member of the Mid Ulster PEACE IV Partnership, who noted:

“The PEACE IV programme has the community at its core and this substantial allocation of funding will bring real benefits to local people across Mid Ulster, whether through Council-led initiatives, or through others delivered by one of our community partners.”



Representatives of the Mid Ulster District Council PEACE IV Partnership at the launch of the Mid Ulster PEACE IV programme, from (l-r) Councillor Denise Mullen, Martin Fahy, Ruth McKelvey, Councillor Sean McPeake, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, Loraine Griffin, Stephen Crabbe, Councillor Derek McKinney, Conor Corr. On the steps – Councillor Trevor Wilson, Seamus Donnelly and Michael Dallat.

€4.6m of EU Funding Supports Environmental Recovery

€4.6m has been offered under the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme for an innovative environmental project that will help recover natural habitats and protect vulnerable species on a cross-border basis.

Called CABB (Co-operation across Borders for Biodiversity) the project will be managed by nature conservation charity RSPB Northern Ireland and will bring together a number of specialist environmental groups, agencies and charities from across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland in support of environmental recovery.

Targeting priority sites across the three countries, these agencies will work together to identify and address common concerns facing our natural world, including the threats posed to important habitats and endangered wildlife.

Commending the funding, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, noted: "This project represents a unique consortium of charities, specialist non-governmental organisations, statutory agencies and volunteers, who by working in partnership, will help to overcome issues of real environmental concern."

In total, the project will develop eight conservation action plans, detailing



Pictured (l-r) celebrating a European Union INTERREG VA funding offer worth €4.6m for the CABB (Co-operating across Borders & Biodiversity) project are Caroline Marshall Fundraising Manager with RSPB Northern Ireland, Joanne Sheerwood Director RSPB Northern Ireland and Gina McIntyre CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

hands-on measures from blocking drains on some of the last remaining areas of blanket bog on the Garron Plateau and in the Ox Mountains; to restoring quality habitat.

In addition, the project will provide advice to landowners on how best to manage land for the marsh fritillary butterfly at Montiaighs Moss ASSI/ Special Area of Conservation; cut rush in lowland meadows to provide areas for remaining waders to breed and will consolidate a sea wall at Loch Gruinart SSSI which will support corncake and large populations of breeding waders.

These actions will significantly help

protect species like hen harrier, golden plovers, curlews and marsh fritillary butterflies. It will also help conserve rich habitats like blanket bog and fen wetland across differing areas including the Antrim Hills, the Pettigo area of Ireland and the Muirkirk uplands of Scotland.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government in Ireland, RSPB Scotland and Mines Restoration Ltd.

Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle to Benefit from EU Funding

€3.28m has been offered under the EU's INTERREG VA Programme to deliver the 'SWELL' project (The Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy), which will improve water quality within the shared waters of Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle.

For the first time ever, the project will bring together key state-owned water companies from Northern Ireland (NI Water) and Ireland (Irish Water), and in partnership with the Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute, the Loughs Agency and East Border Region Ltd, will utilise best practice and tap into individual areas of expertise to effectively achieve its goals.

The project will be implemented in two phases. Phase one, the development of a baseline catchment area investigation and the production of detailed plans to support future investments to achieve the programme outlines, will be delivered within this batch of funding.

The project has the potential to unlock €32m of support from the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, as part of the projects second phase, which will help improve wastewater treatment assets, benefitting 10,000 people on a cross-border basis.

The additional funding will be used in the upgrade and construction of

wastewater treatment facilities within the Carlingford Lough drainage basin in Newry, Mourne & Down and Louth council areas and the Lough Foyle drainage basin, comprising Derry City & Strabane and Donegal council areas.

Upon conclusion, the project will have contributed towards improving the status and regional compliance with the EU's Water Framework Directive (WFD), in respect of transitional and coastal waters found in Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle. It will also have driven a common approach to the management of water resources.

Importantly, the project will leave a unique 'legacy' model, which for the first time will link various aspects of environmental modelling and will be carried out in the catchments of the respective loughs. The legacy model will assist regulatory bodies on both sides of the border to best identify approaches to achieving further improvements in water quality.

Speaking about the funding Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB noted: "Environmental issues do not recognise nor respect international boundaries. Therefore it is essential that they are tackled on a cross-border basis."

"By treating each Lough catchment as a single ecosystem, which is impacted by polluters on both sides of the border, this project is truly collaborative in nature. As such it will create a model of co-operation that can be used as a foundation for any future improvement projects for our shared waters," she continued.

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



Members of East Border Region Committee with Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council & Newry Mourne & Down District Council.

EU Funding Advances Manufacturing in North West

The EU's INTERREG VA Programme has offered €8.5m to Catalyst Inc for the creation of a new cross-border 'super cluster' within the Health & Life Sciences business sector.

The project, called the 'North West Centre for Advanced Manufacturing', will support eight different Health & Life Sciences companies from across the North West and will be involved in 15 different research projects, developing new products and processes.

The project aims to enhance the level of cross-border research and innovation collaboration within the area of applied advanced manufacturing and increase competitiveness by growing the number of Health & Life Science businesses engaged in commercially focused research.

The 'super cluster' will include the Engineering Research Institute at Ulster University, the James Watt Nanofabrication Centre at Glasgow University, the PEM Centre at Sligo Institute of Technology and the CoLab facility at the Letterkenny Institute of Technology.

A total of 26 PhD level researchers, along with post-doctoral research assistants, will be recruited over the lifetime of the project to work alongside the eight participating



Pictured (l-r) celebrating a €8.5 million funding award from the EU's INTERREG VA Programme for the 'North West Advanced Manufacturing' project is Dr Norman Apsley OBE, CEO of Catalyst Inc; Gina McIntyre, CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and Philip Maguire, Director of Finance & Administration with Catalyst Inc.

companies. This will create up to 98.5 years' worth of PhD full time equivalent research.

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

Ireland's Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Mary Mitchell O'Connor, also welcomed the project noting: "It is a great example of practical cross-border cooperation, which will bring strong economic benefits to the eligible regions in both jurisdictions.

Manufacturing has been a key sector for us over the years, providing valuable jobs and investment.

This new initiative will help drive competitiveness and enhanced value-added, at a time of significant technological change in the industry."

Council Welcomes £4.2m EU Funding

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council recently welcomed £4.2m worth of EU funding for the PEACE IV Local Authority Action Plan 'Beyond Tolerance'.

The action plan will actively promote peace and reconciliation in the local area and will focus on three key themes: 'Children and Young People', 'Shared Spaces and Services' and 'Building Positive Relations'.

The funding will be used in the delivery of local community initiatives for children and young people involving sport, arts, culture and language. It will also help make public space in cities, towns and villages more inclusive, facilitate programmes for shared space and will support conflict resolution activities.

Speaking upon announcement of the award Roisin Mulgrew, Chairperson of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, proudly welcomed the funding and advised that it would "... build positive relations locally through the delivery of a wide range of exciting initiatives that are focused on reconciliation, challenging prejudice and promoting diversity and good relations. This is a very welcome boost for our local communities and the support provided by the EU under PEACE IV is a most welcome signal of the European Union's continued support



Celebrating the award of £4.2m in EU funding for the PEACE IV Local Authority Action Plan 'Beyond Tolerance' are (l-r) Aimee Boyd, Deputy Chairperson of PEACE IV Partnership; Michael Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities NMDDC; Councillor Michael Ruane, Chairperson of PEACE IV Partnership; Councillor William Clarke, Deputy Chairperson Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; Ciaran Hanna, Programme Officer SEUPB; Kerry Morrison, The Executive Office, Programmes Manager PEACE IV & District Council Good Relations and Janine Hillen, Assistant Director of Active and Healthy Communities NMDDC.

for the process of peace and reconciliation".

The action plan will effectively meet the PEACE IV Programmes core objectives; to increase the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics have improved and to increase cultural awareness of minority ethnic communities.

Echoing these words of support Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "The PEACE Programme is unique. It exists nowhere else in Europe and was created as a direct result of the EU's desire to support the peace

process. The benefit of the programme is not just about the financial assistance it provides, it is also about the partnerships that it creates between all of the different community and voluntary groups in receipt of support."

She continued: "These partnerships, build relationships between groups who may never have worked with each before and will result in meaningful contact between people from different communities and in doing so encourage greater levels of peace and reconciliation in the region."

Belfast Met Welcomes €9.39m Funding for Energy Sustainability Project

Belfast Met has been offered €9.39m of Interreg North West Europe funding for the Gencomm project, which will aim to answer the energy sustainability challenges facing remote communities across North-West Europe through the production and storage of renewable hydrogen.

Belfast Met is the first College of Further and Higher Education in Northern Ireland to secure Interreg North-West Europe Programme funding and this is one of the largest EU projects ever secured by an Northern Ireland led Partnership.

The project will develop three pilot facilities fuelled by Solar Power, Wind Power and Bioenergy to measure their ability to produce and store hydrogen, together with its viability as a sustainable energy solution for heat, power and fuel for communities across North-West Europe.

Describing the project Paul McCormack (Project Manager) stated: "Hydrogen, as a clean energy carrier and storage medium has great potential to help fight carbon dioxide emissions... The GenComm project will demonstrate how hydrogen technologies can play a significant role in a new, cleaner energy system for Europe. The project will prototype how renewable

energy technology can be applied to many arenas including energy storage, transport and distributed power generation, illustrating how Europe can proactively manage the intermittent character of renewables."

Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Principal and Chief Executive of Belfast Met, highlighted the importance of the funding for the project noting: "Gencomm opens the latest chapter in the Further Education sector; a chapter where FE is recognised as the primary conduit to deliver the technological skills mix required to

enable today's industry to deliver tomorrow's energy requirements..."

In delivering the project Belfast Met will work in conjunction with 9 universities and private companies across Europe: National University of Ireland Galway (ROI), University Institut National des Sciences Appliquées Rouen Normandie (France), IZES gGmbH (Germany) Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium); ENSICAEN – CNRS (France); Pure Energy Centre (Scotland) and three further NI organisations; Viridian, TK Renewables, and Williams Industrial Services.



Announcing the launch of the Gencomm project (l-r) are Peter Smyth (Gencomm Finance Manager); Damian Duffy (Director of Development, Belfast Met); Marie-Therese McGivern (Principal & Chief Executive, Belfast Met); Glenny Whitley (Gencomm Operations & Communications Manager) and Paul McCormack (Gencomm Project Manager).

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.
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INTERREG VB Transnational Programmes

The SEUPB has a role in promoting North/South participation in the relevant INTERREG VB Transnational 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 €396 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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