

SHARED EDUCATION

1. The Peace Programme

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

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

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

2. Summary of Call

The PEACE IV Programme is making a call under Specific Objective 1: Shared Education with the following specific objective:

The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitudes to contribute to a cohesive society.

A total of €35.3 million (ERDF: €30 million) has been allocated to this theme:

- Opening Date: 24 March 2016
- Closing Date: (No later than) **17 May 2016 (15:00)**
- Steering Committee Date: (No later than) 28 June 2016
- Workshop Date: 28 April 2016

It is anticipated that the implementation period required to deliver all of the outputs of the theme will be 5 years, delivered in two phases. A break point at the end of year 3 will facilitate a robust review of Phase 1, with lessons learned and any innovative approaches emerging reflected in phase 2. Successful projects will be approved for the full project period with progression to Phase 2 subject to successful delivery of Phase 1.

The result indicator:

The percentage of schools in the last academic year that have been involved in shared education with another school. The baseline value for 2013 is 76%. The target value for 2023 is 88%.

The output indicators:

- 1.1 - The number of schools involved in shared education. (350 schools by 2023)
- 1.2 - The number of trained teachers with the capacity to facilitate shared education. (2,100 persons by 2023)
- 1.3 - The number of participants in shared education classrooms. (144,000 pupil school years by 2023. Milestone target 19,200 by 2018)

3. Essential information

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

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

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

Applicants may also find it useful to consult the *'Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross Border Cooperation'*. This toolkit has been developed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies, as part of an INTERREG IVA funded project and is intended to be a practical guide to assist with planning cross-border projects. A copy of the toolkit can be downloaded from our website: www.seupb.eu

4. Project Selection Criteria

The following selection criteria will be used:

The applicant must demonstrate that they can deliver a **significant proportion of the outputs**. The Programme would encourage applications from consortia to meet these outputs.

(a) Each operation will have to demonstrate how they contribute to the results and outputs of the theme. In addition, the applicant must address the following:

- Applicants must demonstrate that they are creating opportunities for sustained meaningful and purposeful contact between people and groups of different backgrounds. Applications should demonstrate how they will address the target groups of the call i.e. pre-school; primary school; post primary school and partnerships between schools and youth services. Preference will be given to applications that are comprehensive in this regard.
- The applicant must demonstrate how the programme will be delivered within the remit of the legislation that is progressing through the Northern Ireland Assembly and within the terms of 'DE's Sharing Works: A Policy for Shared Education (2015)'.
- Particular focus will be given to the direct contribution of the project to peace and reconciliation.

(b) Quality of the project design;

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

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

- Demonstration of a regional based partnership, ensuring delivery across Northern Ireland and Border Region, and which can demonstrate the competence to deliver to all target groups (pre-school; primary school; post primary school; and partnerships between schools and youth services) and deliver a significant proportion of output indicators sought within this specific objective.
- The partnership must demonstrate that they have the necessary structures and approvals in place with the appropriate statutory bodies to ensure the smooth implementation of the programme;
- The partnership must demonstrate mechanisms are in place to ensure complementarity, and no duplication, with other funding streams for schools;
- The Partnership will need to demonstrate that knowledge is built within the education sector in a way that is sustainable once the funding period ends. Applicants must demonstrate that they have the skills, experience and structures, including financial capability, to manage a significant project of the scale required to deliver all of the outputs.
- It is anticipated that the project should be implemented over 5 year period The programme should be delivered in two phases, with the second phase contingent on the findings of an evaluation Commissioned by the SEUPB at the end of Stage 1. Any lessons and recommendations may result in adjustments to implementation plans for the second phase.

(d) Value for money;

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

- Cross border co-operation will be encouraged through the development of appropriate partnerships and implementation arrangements where these add value to the delivery of the Programme. In all cases including those projects implemented on a single jurisdiction basis, the applicant will have to demonstrate how they will effectively ensure participation from all communities in their activities.

(f) Contribution towards sustainable development;

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

(g) Contribution towards equality.

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

5. Eligible Region

The eligible area for the PEACE IV Programme is:

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

6. What is the theme “Shared Education” going to achieve?

The current educational structures within the region result in a large proportion of children being educated solely with children of a similar background. The Programme aims to ensure that sharing in education becomes a central part of every child’s educational experience by providing opportunities for the sustained interaction of children from different backgrounds through their participation in curriculum-based common classes.

The Programmes include support to: pre-school education; primary schools; post primary schools; and partnerships between schools and youth services.

The programme aims to build a culture of good relations amongst school children, and equip them with the skills and attitudes to contribute to a society where the cycle of sectarianism and intolerance is broken. The theory of change which underpins the Programme emphasises the importance of contact at an individual and community level.

The Programme aims to create opportunities for children to have sustained contact with children from another community background within the existing educational structures. This should facilitate new and increased friendships and contacts on a cross community basis. The contact facilitated by the programme aims to have positive impacts on intergroup attitudes and behaviours, including a reduction in prejudice and promotion of more harmonious intergroup relations.

The Programme aims to enhance the capacity of pupils and teachers to understand and deal with difference in whatever form it occurs and is premised on equality, human rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Programme recognises there are currently a range of existing opportunities for children to be educated together including within the Integrated Sector. Some schools are currently actively participating in other shared education initiatives. The PEACE Programmes recognises the benefits of all schools working collaboratively together, and positively encourages the participation of schools from all sectors

The Programme will have a focus on schools with no or limited previous experience of providing shared education opportunities to their children, thus increasing the overall number of schools and children that participate in shared education.

For those schools participating in the Programme, support will be provided to school management and teachers to enhance their confidence and skills to positively engage and lead shared education initiatives. The Programme should also result in attitudinal change in the wider school community including support staff, parents and governors, who will all be exposed to the principles and ethos underpinning shared education, which in turn will contribute to and help sustain the positive impacts on children.

The result indicator is:

The percentage of schools in the last academic year that have been involved in shared education with another school.

Whilst the result indicator is based on the number of schools, the primary focus of the programme is direct and sustained contact between children, rather than institutional collaboration. This data for the result indicator is currently collected every two years through the Omnibus Survey of Schools in Northern Ireland. The survey is completed by school principals. Arrangements will be made to collect result indicator data from schools in the Border Region of Ireland.

The allocation is based on the desire to have a significant regional impact. The Programme will target those schools that have not previously participated in shared education. There are approximately 530 schools (Border Region and Northern Ireland) that fall into this category. The Programme has a target of 350 schools, which represents 66% of potentially eligible

schools. The financial allocation is based on the costs of other shared education programmes, adjusted for the target number of schools.

The Programme in the Border Region of Ireland will focus on those schools closest to the border (101 schools within 5 miles), as they offer the greatest opportunity for cross border co-operation. However, other schools in the Border Region may participate as appropriate.

7. Anticipated Actions

It is anticipated that the Programme will provide opportunities for direct and sustained contact between children in shared education through:

- Shared partnerships between schools within Northern Ireland;
- Cross-border, shared partnerships between schools in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland; and
- Shared partnerships within the Border Region of Ireland.

Shared education involves the organisation and delivery of education so that it:

- Meets the needs of, and provides for the education together of, learners from all backgrounds and socio-economic status;
- Involves schools and other education providers of differing ownership, sectoral identity and ethos, management type or governance arrangements; and
- Delivers educational benefits to learners, promotes the efficient and effective use of resources, and promotes equality of opportunity, good relations, equality of identity, respect for diversity and community cohesion.

It is anticipated that the Programme will fund the following type of actions:

- Direct and sustained contact between children of different backgrounds;
- A “whole school” approach involving teachers, classroom assistants, non-teaching staff, governors, pupils, families, wider communities, curriculum development, school policies and wider collaboration with the local community;
- The bringing together of school children at early years, primary and post primary level;
- Development and delivery of related teacher training / professional learning initiatives;

- Increased opportunities for cross-border co-operation;
- Participation of schools in all sectors; and
- Partnerships between schools and youth services to create opportunities for contact between children.

The main beneficiaries of the programme will be pre-schools, primary schools, post primary schools and youth services. In particular schools which have not previously participated in shared education initiatives and those schools which have had limited experience in working collaboratively. It is envisaged that the delivery will require a range of delivery bodies within the statutory and voluntary sectors that have the capacity to deliver projects as identified and procured by the Lead Partner and Partner throughout the Programme period. The programmes will be open to the participation of schools in all sectors.

8. Budget and co-financing rate

A total of €35.3 million (ERDF: €30 million) is available under this theme. However the actual award of grant aid to any particular applicant will be determined following a robust analysis of costs.

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

Grants and payments may take any of the following forms:

- (a) Reimbursement of eligible costs actually incurred and paid;
- (b) Standard scales of unit costs;
- (c) Flat-rate financing, available for overhead costs or salary costs.

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

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

8.1 Simplified Cost Options (SCO)

In order to simplify the administration of grant aid, the SEUPB would propose to use simplified costs options for the administration of this theme. Simplified costs will be established at Stage 2 of the application process in consultation with the successful applicant and in accordance with the European Commission's guidance. It is envisaged that the relevant simplified cost options will include flat rates and unit costs, as outlined in the Programme Rules.

8.2 Flat Rate

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

8.3 Unit Costs

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

Unit costs must be:

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

Applicants must document as a minimum:

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

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

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

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

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

9. Application process

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

Completed applications should be submitted to applications@seupb.eu or SEUPB, EU House, 11 Kevlin Rd, Omagh, Co Tyrone BT78 1LB

10. Contact Us

For general enquiries about this call please contact the SEUPB on: Tel: + 44 28 8225 5750

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