

YOUR

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

Spring 2020

EU!



New €6.5m Shared Women's Centre on Belfast Interface Announced



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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 Spring edition of Your EU!

With the outbreak of Covid-19, we are living through unprecedented times; the full impact of which is still not known.

I am however, pleased to see that so many project staff are determined to find innovative ways to deliver their services, which are so important, particularly during this crisis.

Many funded projects are adopting novel ways of working to ensure the continuation of their services. Some of our projects, working with children and young people for example, have supported their beneficiaries by allowing them to complete their work on-line. The young people themselves have been sharing fun ideas and activities to help them keep connected, as they stay apart.

We would encourage all funded projects, to think about what they can, responsibly, do with the resources available to them, to ensure the continuation of their work.

We are also continuing to oversee the implementation of the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes. Examples of this work include the €1.5m Next Chapter project which has helped over 300 women to develop their ideas, build communities and support the transition out of conflict. I recently had the pleasure of attending the project's official closure event and heard directly from those who had

taken part in it. (You can read more about this on page 7).

I also attended an event to celebrate the start of construction of the Shankill Women's Centre, located close to an interface area in west Belfast. Upon completion, the facility will provide a new, safe space to support cross-community engagement.

The INTERREG VA Programme also continues its focus on supporting cross-border cooperation. Examples of this work include a community paramedic project led by CAWT, which was recognised for its innovation at the National Irish Healthcare Awards for 2019.

This cross-border project targets remote and rural areas in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland and is successfully reducing the number of people who need to visit Accident & Emergency Departments. It will be a front line support service, during the Covid-19 crisis. (You can read more about it and CAWT's other INTERREG VA funded projects on page 6).

There is no doubt that this year is going to be a great challenge, but we will continue to develop the PEACE PLUS Programme. We are delighted to have EU, Irish and UK Government support for this new programme and look forward to the impact it will make in supporting peace and reconciliation and the socio-economic development of the region.



Gina McIntyre
Chief Executive, SEUPB

As with every edition, we take a look at a couple of projects funded under the INTERREG VB/VC Programmes, the PASSION – HF and CLIMATE projects (on pages 18 and 19). Both feature a number of Northern Ireland and Irish partners who are working incredibly hard to bring numerous benefits to citizens within the region and across Europe.

We are committed to supporting funded projects at this very difficult time. Please do not hesitate to contact us, as needed.

We will keep you updated with the latest guidance and advice on our website and social media channels. I sincerely hope and trust that the next time we meet, will be in better circumstances.

Council Celebrates the Achievements of PEACE IV Funded Local Action Plan

In January, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council held a celebration event at Lagan Valley Island to mark the achievements of its £2.5m PEACE IV funded Local Action Plan.

Involving over 2,000 participants within the council area, the event provided the opportunity to evidence the achievements, outputs and cross-community connections made through the various programmes and the positive impact it has made to the participants from across the council area.

Speaking at the event, Chair of the PEACE IV Partnership, Councillor Jonathan Craig said: "The commitment of the PEACE IV Partnership and the project promoters is evident when you see the results and impact made possible by this EU support. Our Action Plan enabled groups to come together on a cross-community basis to learn about each other, to talk, socialise and play together. I'm delighted we were able to present these peace building opportunities to our local communities and see what impact has been, and still is being made."

Congratulating the council on its work, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "I would like to congratulate the council on the excellent work they did delivering some core aspects of the EU's PEACE IV Programme. They are amongst the first of the Local Authorities across the region to have



Over 2,000 individuals from across the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area have benefited from the £2.5m Local Action Plan.

completed their PEACE Action Plan. One third of the total value of the PEACE IV Programme is allocated to 17 local authorities located across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland, due to their ability to identify and address local needs and so ensure money reaches the communities directly."

"The work that has been delivered by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council has made a tangible impact on local people, on a

cross-community basis. It has assisted many citizen groups and organisations to take inclusive steps in the creation of a more cohesive society. I have seen this work first hand on many occasions, and they are all to be applauded," she continued.

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



Chief Executive, David Burns, referees a friendly match between Dungoyne FC and Carryduff Colts FC at the new 3G pitch, part of the Ballybeen Sport and Well-being Hub.

New €6.5m Shared Women's Centre in Belfast Interface Announced

In early March, a new €6.5m EU-funded shared space for women and their families (located at the interface area at Lanark Way in west Belfast) was announced.

The Belfast City Council-led project, known as Shankill Shared Women's Centre, will create a welcoming, safe and accessible shared space for women and their families from both communities.

Speaking ahead of the project's official launch event, the Lord Mayor, Councillor Daniel Baker said: "One of the key priorities in the Belfast Agenda, the city's long-term community plan, is to make life better for all our residents by improving our neighbourhoods, supporting and caring for people who face multiple challenges and improving community relations. For the communities in this part of Belfast, this facility will make a huge contribution, so it is to be warmly welcomed by all."

Also welcoming the project was the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring TD, who noted: "The existing facility has been building relations for the last 30 years and its success is evident in that it has outgrown its existing facility. Once completed, the new building will be a beacon for hope and empowerment on the Lanark Way. I would like to congratulate the project partners Shankill Women's Centre and Clonard Neighbourhood



Pictured at the projects official launch event are Raina McNeice (left) and Sienna Jordan, from Small Wonders Childcare.

Development Partnership, including Clonard Women's Group."

Manager of the Shankill Women's Centre, Betty Carlisle MBE, said: "For over 30 years we have provided education, training, health awareness, childcare and activities for women in the Greater Shankill and beyond. This new state-of-the-art centre represents a new chapter for us and we hope it will allow us to continue to grow and evolve. Our health and well-being project alone, currently helps 250 women per week and we have ambitions to treble user numbers at this new facility."

Director of Regeneration for Belfast at the Department for Communities, Mark O'Donnell, said: "The

investment will not only see the creation of a unique shared space developed on a cross-community basis, but also the transformation of a derelict site.

"The project represents an excellent opportunity to build on the work carried out by the Shankill Women's Centre since 1987. This new space will provide increased opportunities for 'meaningful, purposeful and sustained' contact between women, children and young people from both sides of the interface area."

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

Cross-Border Health Partnership Makes Significant Progress

Over the past year the Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) cross-border health and social care partnership has been busy delivering a suite of EU funded services to citizens, on both sides of the border.

The CAWT Partnership comprises a network of health and social care professionals (North and South). Under the previous INTERREG IVA Programme, CAWT delivered 12 cross-border initiatives, supporting over 53,000 beneficiaries, with up to 85% of services/projects incorporated or mainstreamed into core healthcare services.

Improving cross-border health and social care services is one of the core objectives of the EU's INTERREG VA Programme.

Under the current programme CAWT is delivering four cross-border projects, with a combined value of almost €30m. These projects include CoH-Sync (Community health and well-being); Innovation Recovery (Mental Health Recovery Services); Acute Hospital Services; and Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (Children's Services). CAWT is also a partner in the €8m mPower project, which is improving the health and well-being of older people living with long-term conditions.

To date, 1,500 people have participated in Innovation Recovery project educational courses which help promote mental health well-

being and recovery. The courses are co-produced and delivered by people with their own experience of mental health illness, alongside mental health professionals (14 of the current 24 staff have lived experience of mental health illness). Over its four-year lifespan, the project aims to engage 8,000 people in recovery education. As well as delivering the educational courses, the project provides support to local meeting and networking hubs, such as the Recovery Café in Derry-Londonderry and the Wellness Café in Letterkenny.

As part of the CoH-Sync project (which has eight health and well-being hubs in operation) 34 people from across the border counties were the first to secure an Open College Network (OCN) qualification in Community Health Facilitation.

This NVQ Level Certificate in Community Health Facilitation has enabled participants to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to help individuals within their communities to improve their own health and well-being.

The work of the ground-breaking Community Paramedic project (which falls under the €10m Acute Services project) was recently recognised in the 2019 Irish Healthcare Awards. Selected as the winner of the Sustainable Healthcare Project of the Year, it is piloting the introduction of community paramedics.

Community Paramedics are highly trained ambulance staff who have undergone further specialised training to enable them to see and treat patients in their communities and their own homes; rather than having to transport patients, by ambulance, to busy hospital emergency departments. To date, there has been a consistently high volume of patients being seen and treated at home, or in their communities, with 85% of patients not requiring transportation to Hospital A&E/ED's.

Match-funding for the CAWT EU INTERREG VA projects has been provided by the Departments of Health in Northern Ireland and Ireland.



CoH-Sync project Health Facilitator Graduation.

Women of The Next Chapter PEACE IV project Celebrate

In February, over 100 women, from across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland gathered in the Titanic Hotel, Belfast, to celebrate the success of the €1.5m Next Chapter project.

The celebration event was opened by the First Minister and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland and included contributions from activist and writer Gina Martin, as well as members of the Chapters themselves.

The Next Chapter project aims to contribute towards lasting peace building and societal change through the empowerment and greater involvement of women in community, public and political life.

Delivered by Politics Plus, the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action and Irish Rural Link, the project has facilitated ten Chapters, with over 300 women participating in them.

These Chapters allowed women to meet, network and collaborate on various projects. In addition, the Chapter members were also able to attend a capacity building training programme, receive individual coaching support and meet up at various events, including visits to the Dáil and Stormont.

Many of the Chapter members have already stood for elections; taken on new roles in community groups; undertaken campaigning on local and national issues; and begun planning

for the next generation of female activists in their areas. In her speech First Minister Rt Hon Arlene Foster said: “We are committed to ensuring full and equal political participation and to increase the representation of women in public life.”

“Building peaceful and prosperous communities needs a diversity of voices to be heard – both at a local and national level. We know that stepping forward to be heard is not easy. That is why projects such as the Next Chapter are so important.”

“I have been really encouraged to see the number of women participating in this programme and have been inspired by their stories of success as they have taken on leadership roles within their communities.”

Deputy First Minister Michelle O’Neill said: “Women are key to building a stronger society and creating safe, united communities where everyone can thrive. Yet we know that women continue to have a tough time in politics. It’s up to everyone across society to ensure equality by removing barriers and challenging attitudes.”

“We have made some good progress; not least having two women in the joint office of First Minister and deputy First Minister. But there is still a long way to go to bring about equality in the representation of women.”

“The Next Chapter project is a great example of supporting women to take on active roles in community, public and political life. I congratulate all the women who have taken the leap into politics or other public roles to bring about a better future for all our people.”

Also speaking at the event was Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB who said: “This EU PEACE IV-funded project has helped many women in communities, public and political life, on both sides of the border, to become involved in work which is helping to create a more peaceful, cohesive and forward thinking society. A society in which female voices are heard and respected.”

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



Pictured at the launch of the event are (l-r): Geoff Nuttall, NICVA; Sinead Dooley, Irish Rural Link; Rt Hon Arlene Foster, First Minister; Gareth McGrath, Politics Plus; Michelle O’Neill, deputy First Minister; Gina McIntyre, CEO SEUPB; and Keynote Speaker, Gina Martin.

PEACE PLUS Stakeholder Engagement Events

From December 2019 to February 2020 the SEUPB delivered 16 PEACE PLUS stakeholder engagement events across the six Border Counties of Ireland and all of the counties in Northern Ireland.

Over 1,000 people attended the events, where they learned more about the new draft programme and were able to provide feedback.

Over the coming months, the SEUPB will draft the content of the new programme, in line with larger EU investment priorities, national government strategies and the needs expressed by citizens, on both sides of the border.

The PEACE PLUS Programme will be a 'hybrid' programme, containing activities funded under both the current PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes, with a value in excess of €650m.

The programme's design will require approval from the European Commission, the NI Executive and the Irish Government.

Further updates on the development of the programme, will be available on the SEUPB website and social media channels (Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook) over the coming months.

For further information on the PEACE Plus Programme visit:

<https://seupb.eu/peaceplus>



Attendees at the Belfast City Hall stakeholder engagement event.



During the events attendees were given the opportunity to provide feedback on potential policy objectives of the new PEACE Plus Programme.

Innovative App on ADHD Launched to Support Families

In early March, the €2.7m, INTERREG VA funded Changing Lives Initiative celebrated the launch of an innovative new app that will provide parents with in-depth information on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) tailored strategies and support tools.

The initiative is working to create a better understanding of ADHD, providing an early intervention programme for families with children aged (3-7) experiencing behaviours consistent with ADHD.

To date, the project has provided an intervention to over 1,400 families.

The new app will support remote and rural delivery of the intervention to families and will provide access for those who cannot access the programme face-to-face.

The app will help families understand what ADHD is and provides practical strategies and tools for parents to use with their children. It is particularly relevant for parents who have concerns about their child's behaviour, but are not yet sure if their child has ADHD. Additionally, it will be extremely useful for those working with children in helping them understand ADHD and how they might support children who have issues with inattention, hyperactivity or impulsivity.

Speaking at the launch, Karen Morgan (a parent who has benefited



A depiction of the new app.

from the Changing Lives intervention programme) said: "Information is key to parents understanding what might be going on with their child and how to support them."

"The Changing Lives Initiative programme offers real help to families. It can be hard for parents to get away and find time to come to workshops, so having information and resources available via an app is a great innovation. I'm really excited to see the app and share it with family and friends."

Also reflecting on the development of the app, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "The EU INTERREG VA-funded Changing Lives Initiative has put cross-border parenting programmes for ADHD firmly on the 'treatment map' across Louth, Belfast and throughout the Argyll and Bute region of Scotland. These training programmes are making a really positive impact, supporting families and enriching the lives of many children."

"The development of the app will help to further strengthen this excellent work, allowing it to reach even more people and make the training accessible to all those in need of it. I particularly look forward to hearing about how it will benefit families living in more rural areas, who do not have easy access to the specialised support they need."

Further information on the project and the app is available at www.changinglivesinitiative.com

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Health in Northern Ireland and Ireland, as well as by the project partners.

MEET THE PEOPLE

helping deliver EU Funding Projects

Over the last twenty years, both the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes have illustrated the importance of cross-border cooperation, with multiple partnerships supporting peace and reconciliation efforts and helping address the problems that arise from the existence of borders. But behind the hundreds of projects, and those participating in them, are the people delivering the work. The often unsung heroes; dedicated, hardworking individuals who strive to make a difference with the help of EU funding. This is a snapshot of some of those people, and what they love about working on EU funded projects....



“ The impact of this project has been immeasurable, inspiring colleagues, treating elderly patients successfully at home and recently, ensuring a family have their beloved relative alive after successful resuscitation. Priceless! ”

CAROLINE FRENCH
COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC,
NORTHERN IRELAND
AMBULANCE SERVICE
(ACUTE SERVICES PROJECT)



“ As human activities continue to encroach upon marine space and habitats, a project such as Sea Monitor is extremely timely. I'm privileged to be a part of such an ambitious and groundbreaking initiative that will set the tone for better management of our aquatic ecosystems. ”

DIEGO DEL VILLAR
SENIOR SCIENTIFIC
OFFICER (SEA MONITOR)



“ Children have been learning that there are 'other preschools' out there and that they can all learn together. Parents have been telling us that their child(ren) get so excited about meeting up with their new friends. Staff from both partnerships have formed friendships - some re-kindling old friendships with people they haven't seen for years! So that's an extra bonus. ”

EILEEN OWENS
LEADER OF LOUGHLINISLAND
PLAYGROUP
(SHARING FROM THE START)

OPLE ogrammes!



“ The Next Chapter project is unique! It has brought together a diverse group of women to create a network interested in the future of peace-building and representation in community, public and political life. My job is to tease out the stories, develop the narrative and capture the essence of this amazing, ground-breaking project. It’s truly inspirational. ”

LIZ BEATON

COMMUNICATIONS LEAD
(THE NEXT CHAPTER)



“ Seeing young people from all areas of the community work together, as well as helping them to reach their full potential, is a very rewarding experience. It certainly beats the daily administrative duties! ”

LAUREN STOTHERS

YOUTH WORKER (TRANSFORM)



“ As a genetic scientist, I am working closely with clinical and commercial partners to address the current ‘one-size-fits-all’ healthcare challenge. Seeing my lab work help improve clinical decision making and patient safety has been inspiring! ”

CORAL LAPSLEY

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
IN BIOMARKERS (CENTRE FOR
PERSONALISED MEDICINE)

Touching Tribute to Ballycastle Resident on Shared Space Project

A £30,000 community garden in Mayo Drive, Ballycastle (funded under the Shared Spaces element of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Councils £3.8m Local Authority Action Plan) will be a lasting memory of long-term resident Margaret Kerrigan.

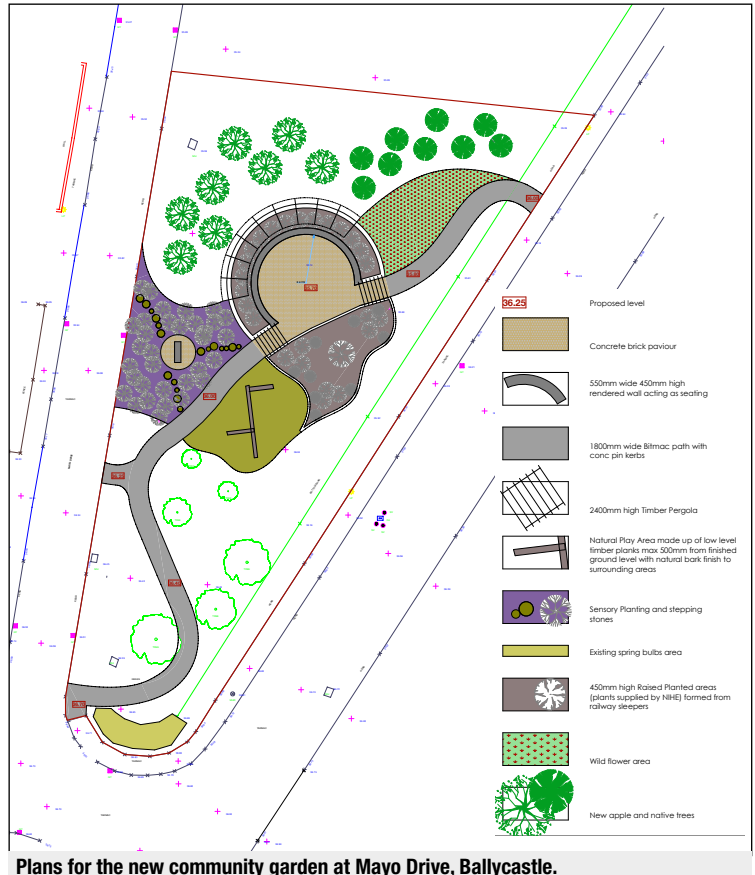
Margaret, who passed away in August 2019, had lived in Mayo Drive all her married life and was one of the initial driving forces behind plans for the garden.

Speaking about Margaret's influence on the project, Councillor Padraig McShane said: "Margaret gave so much to the community and it is only right that there is a fitting legacy for her and the Kerrigan family."

The idea behind the garden was a direct result of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Mayo Drive community, where residents agreed they needed a central point in the vast space at the top end of the green.

Speaking about the gardens development was Community Development Group Chairman, Paul Kerrigan, who explained: "This all came about through PEACE IV funding, when community groups met for workshops to plan what we wanted for shared space areas.

The residents of Mayo Drive, the Community Group and Ballycastle Gardening Club came up with the idea of a Community Garden and I have to say, we couldn't have come



this far without the help of all the team and residents of Mayo Drive."

Paul added: "The workshops threw up some great ideas. Residents wanted this to be of educational value and include nature as well as highlight the benefits of outdoor play. We hope to have a bug hotel, some logs, a small orchard and an urban woodland. We have plans to plant 500 saplings, which we received through community planting packs from the Woodland Trust."

Plans for the space include a circular paved area; a raised seat made from planters; a natural play area; a sensory perception area; as well as a quiet space and reflection area.

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

New Cross-Border Healthcare Project Improving the Health and Well-being of Disabled People

ONSIDE is a new, €5.6m, cross-border project which aims to improve the health and well-being of disabled people living in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland.

At the projects launch on 6 March attendees heard how ONSIDE will increase participant's social and digital involvement in the community.

Minister for Health Robin Swann MLA said: "The ONSIDE project clearly aligns with our Health and Well-being 2026 healthcare transformation strategy, with a strong emphasis on co-production, community-based services and reducing social isolation. It will deliver significant benefits through improving access to support services for disabled people living in remote and rural areas, ultimately yielding positive outcomes for its participants in terms of improved social engagement, independence and well-being."

Minister for Health Simon Harris TD said: "Ireland's citizens have benefited greatly from European funding through the INTERREG Programmes over the last number of years. The ONSIDE project is a great example of how we can harness the potential of technology in realising individual lifestyle choices. The core objective of disability services policy is to support persons with a disability to live a life of their own choosing in their community, and to enjoy the widest possible choice in how they



Pictured at the launch of the project are (l-r): Paul Sheridan, SEUPB; Orla McCann, Project Manager, ONSIDE project; Mark Gamble, ONSIDE participant; Councillor Michaela Boyle, Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council; and Colin Dunlop, Head of Disability and Sensory Disability Policy Unit, Department of Health Northern Ireland.

spend their time, and the ONSIDE project is a very practical support in this regard. The interactive nature of the tailored supports offered by the ONSIDE project focus on the achievement of meaningful personal outcomes for persons with disabilities."

Mark Gamble, a participant of the project said: "ONSIDE has been a complete new experience for me. It got me out of the house, learning new things and meeting new people. I've taken part in a Makaton class and its been both rewarding and beneficial. I'm much more confident online now, I feel secure buying things now where I would have been wary before I did the digital skills programme. I would advise anyone to sign up for ONSIDE. You won't regret it, it's the best thing I've ever done."

Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "This project reflects the EU's continued commitment, through the INTERREG VA Programme, to support the health and well-being of thousands of citizens across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland. Disabled people, on both sides of the border, face many challenges in their daily lives, including feelings of social isolation and exclusion. ONSIDE is an innovative project, designed to help address these issues. It will provide tailored support to encourage participants to become more actively involved within their local community, thereby enhancing their quality of life."

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Departments of Health in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

New Funding Scheme to Assist Local Communities Improve Local Rivers



Young people from local schools help Friends of the River Callan on a community litter pick event along the banks of the River Callan.

As part of the €13.8m INTERREG VA funded CatchmentCARE project a number of local community groups, within the projects three catchment areas, have been funded under the Community Incentive Scheme (CIS).

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 policy, catchment and community actions.

The Community Incentive Scheme has been designed to help local communities contribute to the improved management of their river catchments and was open to a wide variety of organisations including volunteer groups; community groups; NGOs; schools and third level education organisations; youth groups and sports clubs; not-for-profit organisations and farming groups. Funding of up to €25,000 was available to help connect communities with their local rivers.



Members of the Friends of the River Callan group carrying out tree planting as part of their CatchmentCARE funded Community Incentive Scheme project.

Seventeen projects in total, across the catchments, were successfully funded to date (three in the Arney, three in the Finn and 11 in the Blackwater).

Examples of the kind of projects supported in this round of funding include: practical water-quality improvement projects; education and awareness campaigns; access to loughs and rivers for local communities; volunteer training; specialised equipment; community river trails; bio-blitzes; citizen

science projects and interpretation and signage.

Many of the above projects have now commenced with support and guidance from the local CatchmentCARE Officers on the ground.

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

Official Launch of €5.8m Shared Space Project at Newforge, Belfast

In February the €5.8m PEACE IV funded Newforge Shared Space held a special launch event to unveil plans for the development of a 15-acre site, located beside the River Lagan and Newforge Lane in South Belfast.

Managed by the Newforge Community Development Trust (NCDT), the project seeks to help address the high level of social segregation resulting from the troubles/conflict in the region.

The project launch was opened by Superintendent Sue-Ann Steen, Police Service of Northern Ireland and Newforge Trustee, who welcomed attendees to the event: "We have been working on this project for almost 10 years. Our vision was, and remains, to develop new state-of-the-art facilities, thereby using sport as a catalyst for community building and mutual understanding."

Also speaking at the launch was NCDT Chair, Peter Sheridan, who outlined the aims of the project: "I have been involved in Peace and Reconciliation projects for many years and I am excited to see how the Newforge project can help to build tolerance and understanding through the programmes established into this scheme. The Trust is looking forward to working with our partners to develop this iconic sports facility which will provide a friendly, shared space to all members of our community."

Tracy Meharg, Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities said: "This project aims to transform a previously restricted space into a shared space to be used by all sections of the community. When completed we will see community and youth groups, schools, churches, sports clubs, and people from across Belfast and further afield engaging with the 'public safety services' family. These objectives clearly resonate with the Departments' purpose of; supporting people, building communities and shaping places."

Also in attendance at the launch was Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB who said: "The PEACE IV Programme supports a number of shared space projects across the region, which are transforming spaces into areas that can be jointly utilised by all sections of the community. This project is a great example of such a transformed space. Upon completion, it will create a new sports and

recreation facility in Newforge that will deliver an extensive programme of cross-community activity, that will lead to sustained and meaningful contact between people from diverse backgrounds and cultures."

The new facility is due to be completed by 2023 and will open its doors to many communities lacking access to a safe, shared location to meet people from a different background. The NCDT project aims to break down divisions and decrease social tension. The new shared space will be available to community groups; youth groups; schools; churches; sports clubs; and local residents on a cross-community basis.

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



Pictured at the projects launch are (l-r): Lady Mary Peters, Newforge Community Development Trust (NCDT) Patron; Alan O'Neill, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service; Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB; Peter Sheridan, Chair NCDT; Paul Smith, Northern Ireland Prison Service; Tracy Meharg, Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities, Northern Ireland; Supt Sue-Ann Steen, PSNI; and Alistair McGowan, CEO Newforge.

Developing Our Generation's Emotional Resilience, Empathy and Understanding

A partnership of seven cross-border organisations was recently awarded €6.1m of EU PEACE IV funding to support communities in tackling post-conflict resilience and peace-building, throughout Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Known as Our Generation, the cross-border project will be delivered in partnership through seven regional organisations: Action Mental Health (lead partner); Donegal Youth Service; Co-Operation Ireland; Youth Action NI; Youthwork Ireland; PlayBoard NI and Ulster University.

It will reach 35,000 children, young people and adults, with programmes including accessible, age appropriate prevention, early intervention and recovery activities, delivered on a cross-border and cross-community basis to support the mental and emotional well-being of children and young people, within local communities.

Speaking about the project David Babington, CEO of AMH said: "The legacy of the conflict has left an impact on many communities in Northern Ireland and Ireland, which is still evident across generations of adults and young people. This innovative new project provides an unprecedented opportunity for communities, North and South of the Border, to come together to halt the intergenerational impact of the trauma and build emotional resilience and peace for generations to come".

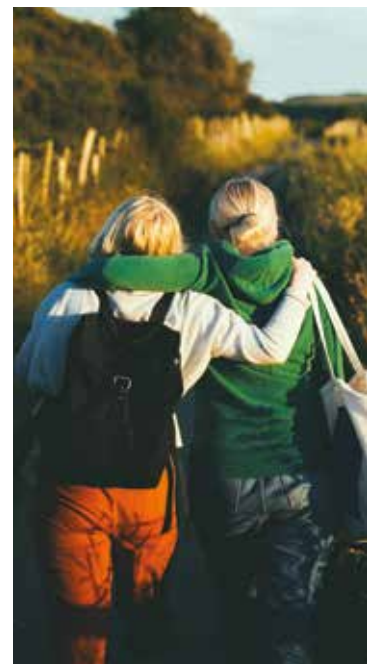
Also commenting on the funding award was Department of Finance Minister Conor Murphy, who said: "There is no doubt the programmes within this project will have great benefits for the thousands of children, young people and adults involved and will offer much-needed support to those suffering from conflict-related trauma by helping to build resilience and positive relationships."

Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development commented: "I am pleased to see these seven regional organisations working collectively, bringing together years of effective practice in mental health recovery and building emotional resilience for the benefit of the wider community. This project will assist large numbers of children and young people, and their key contacts, on a cross-community and cross-border basis."

Underlining the importance of the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, said: "The EU's PEACE IV Programme recognises that a significant number of people, living across the region, are suffering from Troubles/conflict-related trauma. There is also strong evidence that this has been passed on trans-generationally to younger people; many of whom suffer from poor mental health as a result. Indeed, many of the young people that we currently support have openly discussed their struggles with mental health."

"This much-needed and highly innovative project will help to combat the impact of trauma through the development of emotional resilience within individuals and communities. It involves a number of organisations working together, to deliver highly effective therapeutic interventions which will result in the creation of a more confident, self-assured and peaceful society."

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



The Our Generation project will benefit approximately 35,000 children, young people and adults throughout Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Children and Young People Explore Peace through the Arts in Louth

There was a full house at An Táin Arts Centre, Dundalk on Wednesday 19 February as Dundalk Youth Centre hosted its second celebration of work created under the PEACE IV funded, Anticlockwise project.

A total of 180 young people from Louth worked with a group of artists over a number of months to explore peace, conflict and resolution through the various art forms.

Ten acts took to the main stage to show the results of the time spent working with professional artists. The exhibition included a short video montage of the young people's work including visual arts, theatre performances and live music.

Project Manager Kwise Boyce said: "This is a celebration of the young people's accomplishment and bringing communities together. I have witnessed the growth of the young people throughout this process, starting from a place of uncertainty and feeling challenged, growing to a place where they have a voice and expressing this voice through art."

"This is not a quick fix, but an ongoing process to understand conflict and promote peace. Using ones creativity is a great place to start," he added.

Anticlockwise forms part of Louth County Council's €3.5m Local Authority Action Plan.

In total, seventeen peace-building



projects are being delivered under the Action Plan.

As well as supporting children and young people initiatives, such as *Anticlockwise*, it is facilitating programmes for shared spaces and services, making public space in towns and villages more inclusive; and is building positive relations by providing opportunities for sustained, meaningful and purposeful contact between individuals and groups of different backgrounds and on a cross-border basis.

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



North-West Europe Funded project Modernising Heart Failure Diagnostics

PASSION-HF (PATient Self-care uSIng eHealth in ChrONic Heart Failure) has the potential to change and modernise the day-to-day management of patients with heart failure.

Heart failure is a chronic disease which affects 3.6m people in North-West Europe, with its prevalence expected to increase to more than 5m by 2025, predominately due to an ageing population. In Northern Ireland, approximately 17,000 individuals are living with heart failure, accounting for almost 1% of the population (2017/2018).

There have been significant advancements in heart failure diagnostics, drug and device therapies, as well as surgical procedures. However, these healthcare interventions are expensive (approx. £3,150 annually per person), and as recommended by European guidelines are best provided by a multi-disciplinary team.

The PASSION-HF consortium aims to develop an integrated eHealth product called 'Abby', enabling self-care of chronic heart failure, including self-prescription of medication. Patients will be empowered via increased responsibility and self-efficacy for their personal well-being, which will lead to improved adherence to recommended treatment regimens, quality of life, with ultimately a positive impact on their disease trajectory.

'Abby' will include novel features such as a decision support engine, interactive physician avatar interface, serious gaming tools and self-learning feedback system to promote engagement and safety of the eHealth product.

As one of four clinical partners, the team in Belfast is helping to provide data to inform the software development of Abby. Patient and caregivers within Northern Ireland will be given the opportunity to express their thoughts and determine the needs of this virtual support system.

This project is funded through the North West Europe Programme.

Northern Ireland partners include Queen's University Belfast and

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, with Irish partners University College Dublin. European partners include: Maastricht University Medical Center, Netherlands; The European Association for Predictive, Preventive and Personalised Medicine, Belgium; Deutsche Stiftung für chronisch Kranke, Germany; Universitätsklinikum der RWTH Aachen, Germany; Sananet Care B.V.; Thomas More Kempen vzw, Belgium; Nurogames GmbH, Germany; and Exploris AG, Switzerland.

For more information visit:

www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/passion-hf-patient-self-care-using-ehealth-in-chronic-heart-failure/



Belfast team attending Passion-HF consortium meeting in October 2019.

Northern Ireland Partner Helping Lead Climate Change Awareness Project

The CLIMATE project brings various stakeholders together to deliver programmes across four different regions; Northern Ireland, Sweden, Ireland and the Faroe Islands. In addition, Associate Partners from Finland, Scotland, Norway and Iceland are involved to ensure effective project reach both during, and after the programme has ended.

The overriding objective of the project is to; promote and improve climate change awareness in European peripheral rural communities through a knowledge based approach and community-led sustainable resource planning. This will help to mitigate against future climate impact and will incorporate a transnational collaboration model; helping to improve preparedness

for sustainable environmental management in future years. Upon completion, the project will have developed a local authority adaptation planning model; enabling greater preparedness and resilience of local authorities. It will also highlight methods for climate change adaptation interventions to government authorities and local communities in the Northern Periphery Area region.

Importantly, within the context of Northern Ireland, the Derry City and Strabane District Council adaptation plan is the first local authority climate action plan to be developed across Northern Ireland. It offers a case study from which other local authorities can learn the best approaches and methods for adaptation planning as well

as examples of adaptation in practice.

The project is funded through the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme.

It is led by Derry City and Strabane District Council, with associate Northern Ireland partners including Rural Area Partnership Derry (RAPID); and Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL). Irish partners include University College, Cork. European partners include: Mid Sweden University; Sundsvall Municipality, Sweden; Harnosand Municipality, Sweden; and University of Faroe Islands.

For more information visit: <http://climate.interreg-npa.eu/>



The River Faughan, in Derry-Londonderry is susceptible to intense flooding and the effects of climate change.

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 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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