

YOUR

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

Winter 2021

EU!



Cross-Border Housing Project Successfully Engages 1,700 Tenants in Community Building Activities



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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Editorial and Production Management:

John McCandless

Copy Writing: Cathy McGarry

Design: Page Setup Design

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Welcome to the Winter Edition of Your EU

2020 was a very difficult year, for so many, in a number of different ways. Like many organisations, we found ourselves navigating the uncertainties surrounding the developing pandemic, learning new ways of working and new skills, such as organising and participating in a number of digital events. I wish to pay tribute to the tenacity of both the SEUPB staff, and the projects which we fund, who have quite simply done an amazing job given the challenges, in ensuring that they deliver their important work for the many thousands of beneficiaries.

Despite the challenges, it was a year filled with remarkable achievements and considerable milestones in the implementation of the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes, such as project launch and closure events, the dissemination of significant research findings and the publication of some fascinating project legacy videos.

I was extremely proud to contribute to these, sharing my support and sincere admiration for the tremendous breadth of excellent cross-border work undertaken under the current programmes.

These videos provide a powerful illustration of the significant benefits from, and continued need for EU funding, such as the €1.1m, PEACE IV funded, Housing Associations Integration Project, which highlights the importance and impact of creating a more united community. You can find this video on [page 12](#).

2021 will be a landmark year for the SEUPB. We will be launching the new PEACE PLUS Programme (2021-2027). A hybrid of PEACE and INTERREG Programme activities, it will contribute towards a more peaceful, prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. For further information go to <https://seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS>

We are also very excited to be in the final stages of development of a new digital platform - The Peace Programme Learning Platform. This platform will host a highly searchable, central collection of information on the delivery of the PEACE Programme across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland over its twenty plus year history. The online library will include: reports; academic research; case studies and videos. I applaud our staff and external consultants on its significant development and I am confident that it will be an incredibly useful tool, here and internationally.

As we pass the mid-way point of the current programming period for PEACE IV and INTERREG VA, we will see a large number of project closure events. I do hope that we will be able to have these events physically and I am really looking forward to celebrating with project partners and hearing some personal testimonies from the project delivery.

I am delighted to share some fantastic PEACE IV and INTERREG VA project updates in this edition, such as the outstanding work of the Crossing Borders, Breaking Boundaries project,



which has helped 1,200 migrant workers, tackling issues such as unpaid wages and bullying and discrimination ([page 5](#)); and the work of the ONSIDE project, which has had an incredible effect on disabled people, allowing them to live independently and reducing their feelings of social isolation through digital skills training ([page 11](#)).

There is also a feature on the SEUPB itself on pages [7](#) and [8](#) explaining the role and responsibilities of the various directorates within our organisation. I hope you enjoy reading these insights into how we implement the EU funding programmes and more importantly, the people behind this work and the daily challenges and opportunities they face in their roles.

As always, I sincerely hope you enjoy reading and please, continue to stay safe and well.

Gina McIntyre
Chief Executive, SEUPB

New €3.5m Cross-Border Healthcare Project Launches in Scotland

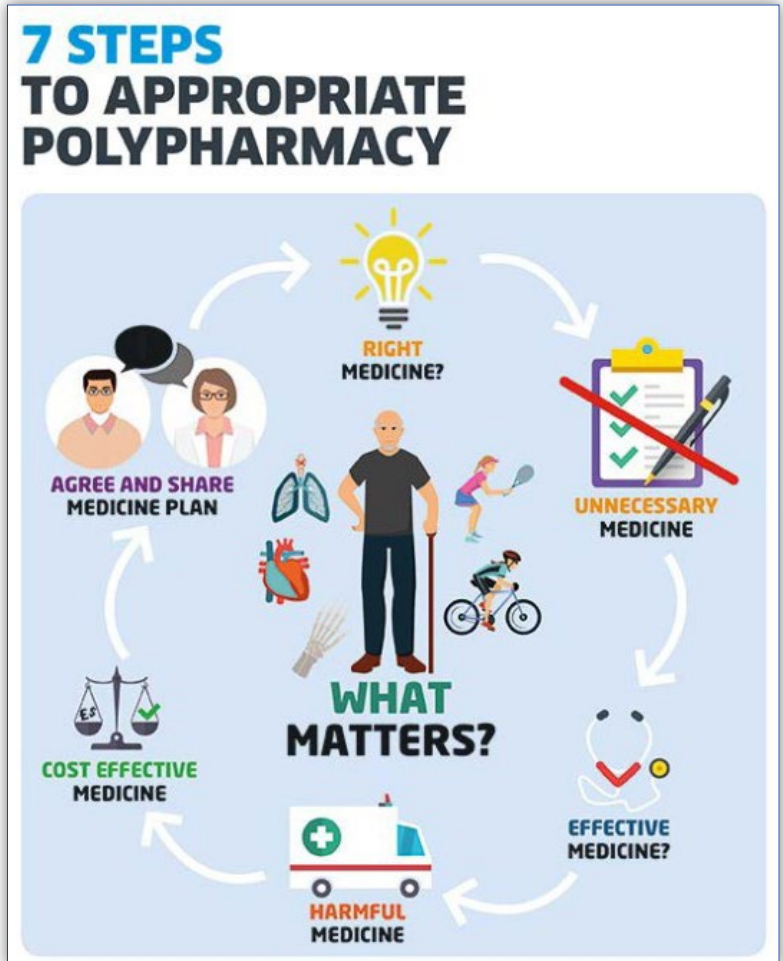
A new, €3.5m, cross-border healthcare project, designed to transform the approach in the optimisation of medicines was recently launched in Scotland.

Known as iSIMPATY (Implementing Simulating Innovation in the Management of Polypharmacy and Adherence Through the Years) the project aims to ensure the optimal outcomes of medication use in those patients with more than one long-term illness.

iSIMPATY will deliver a cost effective medication review service that has a positive impact on people's health and quality of life. Medicine reviews will involve collaboration between patients and healthcare professionals to increase patient empowerment and their adherence to prescribed medicines.

Furthermore, it will facilitate shared learning and good practice across Scotland, Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, training doctors and pharmacists to deliver 15,000 robust medicines reviews and build capacity in the healthcare system to spread best practice.

Speaking at the digital launch of the project in November, Scottish Government project lead, Alpana Mair said: "By placing the patient at the centre of the intervention and by involving them in the decision making about their medication, the aim is to support shared decision making, whilst also gaining their feedback to



inform policy. Through this approach, we specifically want to focus on health inequalities to address inappropriate polypharmacy and adherence."

Also outlining the importance of the project, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, said: "This project will meet important targets within the health and social care objective of the EU's INTERREG VA Programme. This is a very important part of the programme, which has created many new and innovative cross-border partnerships, similar to iSIMPATY, who are working across Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland."

"By sharing knowledge, expertise and experience these partnerships are having a huge impact upon the health and well-being of tens of thousands of citizens. They are pushing boundaries, creating new and highly innovative ways of working and are helping to positively transform healthcare, for many years to come."

for more information on the iSIMPATY project.

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

Over 1,200 Migrant Workers Benefit from PEACE IV Project

Over the past three years the €1.1m, PEACE IV funded, Crossing Borders, Breaking Boundaries project has been working hard to tackle the sectarianism, discrimination, racism and exploitation of EU and non-EU migrants in precarious and insecure sectors of the labour market, along the border counties of Ireland and across Northern Ireland.

It has benefited 1,200 migrant workers, tackling issues such as unpaid wages, bullying and discrimination. The workers took part in cross-community workshops on racism and sectarianism, on how to lobby and also building confidence, speaking English as a second language. This work and the research carried out by the project demonstrates the need for long-term change.

The project also incorporated a considerable amount of research on the profile, cross-border dynamics and issues impeding labour market integration of black and minority ethnic (BME) workers in the agricultural, and food processing businesses sectors



Taken prior to COVID-19, the Community Intercultural Programme held regular one-to-one sessions with migrant workers in Portadown and Armagh.

in Donegal/Derry, Cavan/Armagh, Monaghan/Newry-Down.

The project was led by the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) in cross-border collaboration with the Community Intercultural Programme, Irish Congress of Trade Unions Northern Ireland and Ulster University.

Speaking at the project's digital closure event Edel McGinley, Director of MRCI said: "Workplaces are crucial sites of integration and peace-building. Through this fund, we've supported migrant workers to speak out about the poor conditions they work in and the barriers that prevent

them, not only from accessing their rights, but from fully participating in local peace-building. People from a migrant background are integral parts of communities here and it's essential that they are included in all of our work towards building a sustainable peace."

Reflecting on the vital work of the project, Gina McIntyre CEO of the SEUPB said: "All of the participants who took part in this project attended well-designed, cross-community workshops, which took a deep look at both the causes and consequences of racism and sectarianism. As a result of participating in the project many of them became empowered to stand up, not only for their rights, but for the rights of others. The project also has another equally important dimension, which reflects the core objectives of the EU's PEACE IV Programme; as it has helped to transform attitudes, encourage more positive connections and create a more cohesive society."

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



Taken prior to COVID-19, a Workers Action Group meeting, where people of different nationalities met to discuss how they could best work together to better access their employment rights across the agri-food sector.

New 12 Kilometre Greenway for North and West Belfast

A new £5.1m, EU-funded greenway will help connect parks and open spaces along a 12 kilometre route in north and west Belfast.

Funded under the EU's PEACE IV Programme, the Forth Meadow Community Greenway will create shared paths and cycle ways along a route starting at Clarendon Playing Fields and ending at the new Transport Hub in the city centre.

Wayfinding and information signage, street furniture and public art will also be installed along the route, while key sites will be enhanced with landscaping and planting.

The project will be delivered by Belfast City Council as part of the shared spaces element of its £14.6m, PEACE IV funded, Local Authority Action Plan.

Alongside the capital project the Council is also developing an exciting programme of community activity and events linked to key sections of the greenway to help bring communities together on common ground and use the new shared space.

There are five sections to this greenway which include:

Section 1: (Glencairn to Ballygomartin) - Glencairn Park will see improvements including a new entrance at Forthriver Road and a new 3m wide path linking Glencairn Park to Glencairn Road. There will also be improvements to Forth River Linear Park's existing path, replacement of fencing at Clarendon Playing Fields and the refurbishment of the footbridge at Forthriver Way.



Section 2: A new shared space including walking and cycling paths will be created on the former industrial land between the lower Forth River and Springfield Road. New paths will also connect the space to Paisley Park and Woodvale Park.

Section 3: This section includes the £1.2 million redevelopment at Springfield Dam, which received additional funding from the Department for Communities, Northern Ireland. The route connects Springfield Road with the Whiterock Community Corridor and Falls Park.

Section 4: Bog Meadows Nature Reserve - pathways within and connecting to the nature reserve will be widened, with additional planting and lighting added. The route will connect to Broadway, where a new, welcoming entrance will be added.

Section 5: (Westlink to city centre) - starting at Broadway Roundabout and ending at the new Transport Hub, this section will see new way finding signage installed and improvements to the existing path.

Reflecting on the announcement of the greenway, Lord Mayor of Belfast City Council, Alderman Frank McCoubrey, said: "Forth Meadow Community Greenway is a really exciting project that will help regenerate local neighbourhoods along its 12 kilometre route. It will include an imaginative community activity and events programme, which will be delivered at sections along the new greenway, with the aim of bringing communities together and promoting the use of the shared space."

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

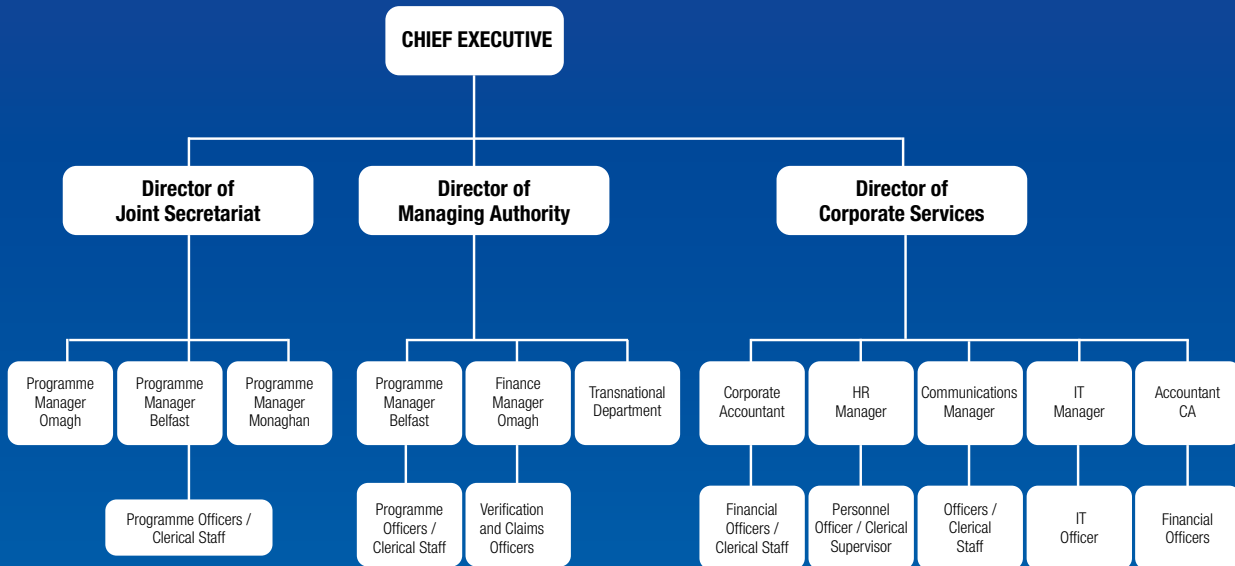


An aerial photo of the work completed to date at Springfield Dam.

Behind the Scenes of the SEUPB: What Goes into Delivering EU Funding Programmes?

In this edition of Your EU we go behind the scenes of the SEUPB to hear from some of those responsible for delivering EU funding programmes and what that looks like on a daily basis.

SEUPB ORGANISATIONAL CHART



Thérèse Lynch

(Manager, Certifying Authority, Belfast)

Q1. What three words best describe the work you undertake?

Excel....excel.....excel, Financial and Challenging.

Q2. What do you find the most challenging about your role?

One of the key tasks of CA is to manage the cash-flow of the programmes ensuring that sufficient cash is available to pay projects when required, and that European Commission (EC) annual expenditure targets are met. This involves a significant degree of forecasting and applying assumptions to estimate payment values and dates. The impact of COVID-19 resulted in substantial changes to cash-flow needs throughout the year across many projects.

Q3. Tell us something unique about your role?

CA prepare annual programme accounts for the EC. These show all project expenditure certified within that year, and any deductions required for irregular expenditure are identified.

Q4. How has your skills grown since starting?

Prior to joining the SEUPB I had very little knowledge of EU structural funds and the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. Over the past four years I've developed an in-depth understanding of these and a real appreciation of the valuable work they have done for the region.



Cormac Doherty
(Programme Officer, Financial Control Unit, Omagh)

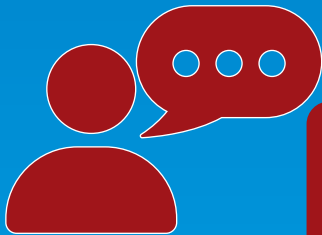
Q1. Can you paint a picture of what it's really like working within FCU?

On any given day we have to be reactive to project queries via email/telephone, which can take up a substantial portion of the day. We also have to deal with a significant amount of queries from external stakeholders/auditing bodies. It's important to develop a good rapport with each of your projects, to ensure they fully understand both the questions you are asking and the possible remedial action you are taking. Additionally, it's about the working relationships within the SEUPB, between the FCU, JS and MA departments. This collective team effort helps contribute to making key assessments on a projects performance and resolves any potential issues.

Q2. On average, how many projects do you look after? Overall, up to 10 PEACE IV and INTERREG VA projects, all of which have multiple project partners. Each partner submits a claim on a quarterly basis. At present, I have 110 live claims, so you can imagine processing these is a combined team effort.

Q3. What has been your proudest moment working at the SEUPB? Coming from the North West I would say assisting with the implementation of the Peace Bridge project, but also the PEACE III-funded Skainos Centre project in East Belfast. These types of Capital Build Projects will hopefully leave a lasting legacy of the EU Programmes in this region for many years to come.

Q4. How has lockdown affected the work you carry out? Since March we have been working remotely, utilising MS Teams to maintain communication which has worked well. Working hours can become a little blurred into everyday life, but overall we have continued to work well with our projects towards our combined targets.



Elaine Farmer
Programme Officer, Joint Secretariat, Monaghan)

Q1. How would you describe your role at the SEUPB?

I provide programme support to funded projects, whilst monitoring their progress in line with their Letter of Offer and agreed output and result targets. I assess project applications and provide recommendations and support to the programme Steering Committees.

Q2. What has been your favourite project to work on? Project support is the best part of my job as I get to work with, and learn from the people who are out there supporting communities. I enjoy meeting with lead partners and hearing the stories from the project activity, especially during COVID-19 restrictions; learning how communities have adapted to lockdown. There have been some really heart-warming stories of local communities and young people working together to help the vulnerable in their areas.

Q3. What have you learned / faced as part of lockdown, both personal and professional? Prior to COVID-19 I was never a big fan of video calling or Face Time. But now it's just a part of my daily life! From MS Team meetings to weekend Zoom calls with friends. Even attending virtual live gigs has quickly become one of my favourite things to do - there's no hassle trying to get a taxi home afterwards!

Q4. What is your outlook for the future? A lot of the projects I deal with are moving into their final year of implementation so I'll get to see each of them achieving their objectives and seeing the results of their efforts over the last three to four years. Also, I'm currently collaborating with other EU cooperation programmes to develop best practice implementation tools and templates for the post 2020 period, so I'm looking forward to that piece of work concluding and to see these tools being used in the 2021-2027 PEACE PLUS Programme.

Celebrating the Work of PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Projects

In 2020 the SEUPB worked to build the number of PEACE IV and INTERREG VA project videos on its [YouTube](#) Channel. The SEUPB is extremely proud of the videos these projects have created and Your EU decided to take a look at some of them in more depth. We hope you enjoy hearing directly from those involved in project delivery. You can click on each one to find out more.

Improving the Representation of Women in Public and Political Life with the PEACE IV Next Chapter Project.

Evaluating, developing and facilitating the wide-scale deployment of Mass Energy Storage technologies with INTERREG VA Spire 2 Project.

Mhairi's Sight Loss Story - INTERREG VA Need to Talk Project.

Discover the Benefits of Shared Education with PEACE IV, Sharing from the Start Project.

Healthcare Projects Remain Resilient in the Face of COVID-19

Over the last few months a number of INTERREG VA healthcare projects have continued to successfully deliver their much-needed activities despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.

In early October, the €9.2m mPower project team won the Innovation Organisation of the Year award at the Causeway Ireland Scotland Business Exchange awards.

Led by NHS National Services Scotland, the project is using digital interventions to enable elderly people in remote areas to live safely and independently in their own homes by introducing them to various health and well-being technologies.

Over the last six months, project partner HSE has successfully delivered a safe and simple video conferencing tool called Attend Anywhere nationally across the border counties of Ireland. The tool, initially used in Scotland, enables health professionals to continue to see patients, virtually, for a video consultation during the current COVID-19 pandemic. By August, it had delivered 30,000 video conferencing health consultations, helping patients to see their clinician or healthcare professional in a safe and timely manner.

Speaking about the award Alan Connor, mPower Programme Manager said: "We're absolutely thrilled to be awarded Innovation Organisation of the Year. The hard work and professionalism shown by all involved has benefitted so many of our citizens

mPower wins the Innovation Organisation of the Year award at the Causeway Ireland Scotland Business Exchange.



across Ireland and Scotland and we're so proud of the whole team. This result demonstrates the value of collaborations and what can be achieved."

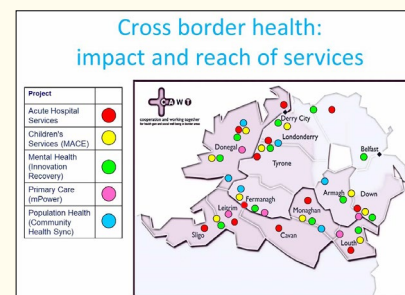
The CAWT (Cooperation and Working Together) Partnership has also made headway in the delivery of its four INTERREG VA funded projects. In September, the CAWT Director General, Damien McCallion, presented at the Centre for Cross Border Studies Annual Conference, where the focus of debate was 'Healthy co-dependencies: Co-ordination across borders in response to COVID-19'.

During his presentation Damien demonstrated the positive impact of INTERREG VA funding, with a map highlighting the regional locations which benefit from CAWT's cross-border projects.

Damien also reflected on how the CAWT partnership worked to balance its response to the demands of COVID-19 with successfully continuing INTERREG VA project delivery. Where required, CAWT project staff transferred temporarily from project activities to assist front line response staff i.e.

Dermatology Project Nurses within Letterkenny University Hospital worked in Emergency Departments providing much needed support. Project partners also facilitated the sharing of PPE resources, and E-health initiatives, including virtual consultations, were progressively rolled out to enable continued access to health and social care appointments.

Match-funding for all INTERREG VA healthcare projects has been provided by the Departments for Health in Northern Ireland and Ireland, and the Scottish Government.



In September, CAWT Director General, Damien McCallion presented the impact and reach of the partnership's four INTERREG VA funded projects at the Centre for Cross Border Studies Conference.

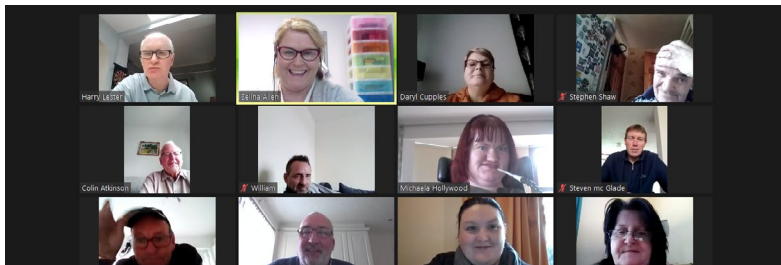
INTERREG VA Project Tackles Social Isolation and Promotes Independent Living

Over the last number of months the **ONSIDE** project (Outreach and Navigation for Social Inclusion and Digital Engagement) has been having a tremendous impact on disabled people, at a time when they need it the most; with participants able to connect with family and friends during lockdown periods, reducing their feelings of social isolation and allowing them to remain living independently.

Funded through the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, the €5.6m project aims to improve the health and well-being of disabled people through increasing their social and digital involvement in the community.

Led by Disability Action NI (with project partners NI Housing Executive, Supporting Communities and Independent Living Movement Ireland) the project is based in eight geographic locations: Sligo and Donegal; North West and North Donegal; Fermanagh and Omagh; Cavan and Leitrim; Dungannon and Armagh; Monaghan and Louth; Newry and South Down; and Greater Belfast and Northern Region.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic hampered the creation of social connections in participants' local communities. In response, staff quickly refocused their efforts to upscale the digital training element of the project which sees participants take part in an eight-week, digital skills programme. This training equips and supports participants to become socially connected online. Staff focused on digitally training as many participants



ONSIDE participants have spent the last few months getting connected online and learning new digital skills.

as possible, using Zoom and realigned their programme to be entirely online.

The benefit of this digital training on participants' health and well-being was two-fold: participants were able to connect with family and friends during lockdown periods, helping to reduce feelings of social isolation; and they were able to remain living independently, which has also reduced feelings of anxiety and stress.

Having gained their new digital skills and equipment, participants can now socialise in their online communities, shop online, bank online and order essential services e.g. prescriptions and home heating oil.

The extracts below demonstrate the life-changing impact this project is having upon participants.

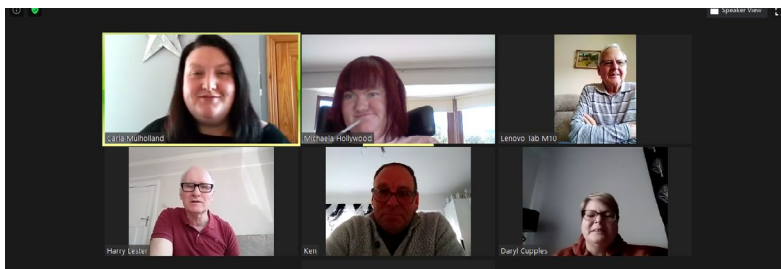
“ONSIDE has improved my overall well-being. I feel more confident using the internet and to register for, and take

part in, online activities. I was able to join Tesco and Iceland and do online grocery shopping while I was shielding during lockdown. I love having my tablet and listening to podcasts on it. It's a way of connecting with the wider world. Learning how to use zoom has been really useful too. I find it easier to do research using the larger screen on my tablet.”

“It was an education! I've learnt how to do things that I didn't know how to do before. I now use my tablet to look up cars for sale, and manuals for equipment.”

“It has helped my well-being. I don't feel as isolated anymore and it has boosted my confidence. I don't feel as lost. I feel more a part of something and supported.”

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



The ONSIDE project has had such a positive impact on disabled people at a time when they needed it most.

Cross-Border Housing Project Successfully Engages 1,700 Tenants in Community Building Activities

In November, the €1.1m PEACE IV funded, Housing Associations Integration Project drew to a close after three years of promoting good relations across housing associations in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland with a special legacy video, with contributions from project staff, participants and match-funding government departments.

The video encapsulates the success of the project, having exceeded targets and broken down religious and racial barriers across some of the most vulnerable localities in Northern Ireland and Ireland. The video also discusses the impact of the pandemic on project delivery and the creative steps taken by HAIP partners to continue to provide opportunities for participants in very challenging circumstances.

Over its lifespan it engaged with over 1,700 tenants in community building activities, 700 more than planned. It enrolled more than 300 tenants on non-accredited training activities and almost 100 participants achieved an OCN Level 2 accredited training in good relations.

The initiative also delivered an innovative scheme for 12 participating neighbourhoods to twin together in an intensive community engagement process that further strengthened connections and relationships between individuals and communities, with twinned neighbourhoods working on the delivery of joint projects together.

In February 2020 the project was



Pictured prior to the pandemic are (l-r): Jude Thompson Black, TIDES Training; Emer McElhinney, Good Relations Officer Apex Housing Association, Derry-Londonderry; and Dr John McPeake, Chairperson of the Steering Group Committee for HAIP. Emer was congratulated and presented with an OCN Level 2 Certificate in Building Capacity for Peaceful Change.

recognised at the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) awards ceremony, winning the 'More than Bricks and Mortar' category. This accolade both acknowledged and celebrated the impact that the peace-building programme had made within communities throughout Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

Providing a project analysis was Dr John McPeake, Chairperson of the HAIP Steering Committee, who reflected: "We have lived in a divided society for multiple generations but with the peace accord and Good Friday Agreement things have changed. I think of peace here like a fine piece of furniture with a thin veneer and the job of this programme was to

build that up so people could become comfortable and break down barriers and understand more."

"This project is fundamentally about promoting good relations between communities, different religious groups, races and cultural backgrounds. We have a chance to make a difference and we've identified some community champions who will carry that work further."

To view the legacy video

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

All Went Swimmingly Well with Three-Year Bathing Water Quality Project



In December, the project celebrated its official closure by holding a live webinar, providing an opportunity for project staff and stakeholders to discuss key research findings and implications for the future.

Just over two years ago, the €1.3m INTERREG VA funded, SWIM project (System for Bathing Water Quality) was created out of the need for a cross-border predictive bathing water quality system.

Since then, it has produced a highly sophisticated bathing water predictive model that is more advanced than any other such technology deployed across Europe.

Involving six beaches in Northern Ireland and three in the border counties of Ireland, the vital work has included the installation of new electronic signage information boards and a free downloadable app; providing citizens, on both sides of the border, with important public health information such as water quality and weather reports.

The project also incorporated educational programmes, including

cross-border school work, where pupils had the chance to create their very own weather stations; as well as a number of positive promotional activities including the 'Stories from the Beach' series (Your EU featured one of these groups, the Menopausal Mermaids, in its last edition).

The legacy of the project's scientific modelling will provide invaluable information for future development.

In December, the project decided to celebrate its official closure by hosting a special webinar, featuring key research findings, updates to the sampling models and an overview of communications and other deliverables.

Speaking ahead of the event Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, reflected upon the project's key achievements noting: "This is an important environmental issue and this project

has served to increase focus on the need to keep our bathing waters clean and unpolluted, giving this matter the full attention it deserves. It brought together the combined expertise of a number of different partners, on both sides of the border, to help protect public health, by creating a new, easy-to-access information system on the quality of bathing water. This will help to improve the lives of many citizens now, and in the future."

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

New Interactive Map Showcases the Benefits of Interreg NPA Cooperation

Geology closer to people
Portrush

Learning across generations
Coleraine

Literary Tourism
Gort

Sailing to small islands
Cape Clear Island

The new interactive map showcases the benefits of Interreg NPA cooperation for projects and communities in Northern Ireland.

A new interactive map, featuring a number of Northern Ireland projects funded under the Northern Periphery and Arctic regions, showcases the benefits of Interreg NPA cooperation.

The NPA's interactive map of results was created to allow visitors to find stories about project impacts and solutions, linked to a geographical location. Visitors can pick a dot on the map and scroll down to read about the people who benefitted from solutions developed through cooperation between regions with similar challenges.

Among the 20 already included on the map are a number of projects which the SEUPB oversees including

the CLIMATE project (Collaborative Learning Initiative Managing and Adapting to The Environment).

CLIMATE brings together various stakeholders 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 duration.

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 through a best practice model; helping to improve preparedness for sustainable environmental management in future years.

Speaking about CLIMATE's importance, project representative Stephen Jones said that it has "... transformed the course of climate action in Northern Ireland. Every council in Northern Ireland has signed up to develop their own plans through the Local Government Climate Action Network as a direct follow-on from CLIMATE".

To see the map of results click here:

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 counties 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 counties of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo) and Western Scotland (Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland, and South Ayrshire).

For further information on the INTERREG VA Programme contact:

Joint Secretariat,
Monaghan.
Tel: + 353 (0)47 77003
E: monaghan@seupb.eu or

Caroline Coleman, National Contact Point for Scotland, Scotland
Europa, 150 Broomielaw,
Atlantic Quay, Glasgow G2 8LU.
Tel: +44 (0) 141 228 2202
E: Caroline.Coleman@scotent.co.uk I

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:

Declan McGarrigle at the SEUPB Belfast office:
Tel: + 44 (0) 28 9026 6678
E: declan.mcgarrigle@seupb.eu

Special EU Programmes Body	Belfast	Monaghan	Omagh
info@seupb.eu communications@seupb.eu www.seupb.eu	7th Floor, The Clarence West Building 2 Clarence Street West Belfast BT2 7GP Northern Ireland T: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660	M:Tek II Building Armagh Road Monaghan Ireland T: +353 (0) 477 7003	EU House 11 Kevlin Road Omagh BT78 1LB Northern Ireland T: +44 (0) 28 8225 5750