



YOUR

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

SPRING 2021

EU!



Shared Education Pupils Involved in Innovative Walking Initiative



Ireland's European Structural and
Investment Funds Programmes
2014-2020

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The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. The Body was established on 2 December 1999, under the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland (8 March 1999), which created the implementing bodies.

The Special EU Programmes Body's principal function is to provide the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat functions for the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Territorial Co-operation Programmes (2014-2020). It also has a signposting and supporting role for projects wanting to engage with the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Inter-regional Programmes.

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Welcome to the Spring edition of Your EU!

It is hard to believe that when we left the office to work remotely for three weeks, a year ago, we would still be in this position. It was maybe better that none of us were fully aware of the road that lay ahead for everyone.

We, like everyone else (including our projects) have adapted quickly to working in this new environment. We are successfully using the latest technology to communicate with all of our key stakeholders and also participate in all of the digital events, organised by our projects.

Although, this will never replace the physical events, because it is at those that I get the opportunity to meet the project partners and also the beneficiaries of our projects. I really miss meeting you all and sharing stories of your progress and I look forward to the day when this will become a reality once again.

As I noted in our last edition, this year is an extremely busy time for the SEUPB as we work on the completion of the final draft of the new €1bn EU PEACE PLUS Programme. On Wednesday 10 March we were delighted to launch the public consultation for the programme, which will conclude on 12 May 2021.

This follows the series of stakeholder engagement events on PEACE PLUS that, as luck would have it, were held pre-COVID-19 restrictions.

These events attracted over 1,000 people from both sides of the border, and I wish to thank each of you who came out to meet us on those winter evenings to share your views on what should be included in the Programme.

Once again, I would ask organisations and individuals to share their views and submit a survey response through our website on the PEACE PLUS Programme design. More details on the consultation are contained within [pages 7](#) and [8](#), of this edition.

Over the last few months I have been busy 'virtually' attending a number of PEACE IV project closure events, such as the special conference held by the Promoting Reconciliation and Integration Through Safe Mediation project (PRISM). During this conference the project reflected on its key achievements. Discussions were focused on the lived experiences of newcomer and traditional cultures within our community and the positive steps for the future. You can read more about this on [page 9](#).

Over the next few months more PEACE IV projects will draw to a close and I am very much looking forward to hearing more about that experience for both the project delivery partners and participants.

There is also an update on our transnational programme on [page 14](#), this time courtesy of the €2.58m TrailGazers project. It is helping to



revitalise, regenerate and re-imagine rural communities by developing a shared vision for the future sustainable development of Atlantic Area trail sites.

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

Gina McIntyre
Chief Executive, SEUPB

Council's New Video Highlights Success of PEACE IV Projects

A video, marking the completion of Sligo County Council's €979,000, PEACE IV, Local Authority Action Plan was recently released, helping to showcase the positive effects of EU funding.

Having started in late 2017, the video focuses on a number of projects that were delivered under the Action Plan.

During its lifetime the plan delivered five projects under the Children and Young People strand. This involved 283 people, aged 3 – 24 years, with project themes including: music; outdoor pursuits; diversity awareness; active citizenship and understanding our shared history.

Under the Building Positive Relations strand three projects were successfully delivered, covering a range of distinct themes including: a heritage programme, cross-border literary connections and a community place-making initiative. A Small

Grants Programme was also delivered under this theme, with five peace-building projects developed and led by community groups. These covered a range of areas including community mediation, the culture and the creation of a historical archive.

The new Cantilevered Shared Space facility, located in Stephen Street car park in Sligo's town centre, was created as part of the Shared Spaces and Services strand. The space, which will be used as a performance platform, opened in late December 2020, following 12 weeks of construction and was warmly welcomed by local residents and businesses.

As well as showcasing some of the innovative projects the video also features interviews with key stakeholders and participants.

Congratulating Sligo County Council on its successful delivery was Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, who noted:

"A tremendous amount of activity has been delivered under each of the plan's three strands. This is reflective of the fantastic work which is taking place in all of the border counties of Ireland and across Northern Ireland."

"This invaluable work is also promoting the benefits of living together in peaceful communities and helping to build a more confident and cohesive society, ready for the future. Local authorities, on both sides of the border, have played a key role in this and will continue to do so as we move forward into the new PEACE PLUS Programme," she continued.

You can view a copy of the video

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



Ulster University Coastal Experts Study the Shifting Sands Between Newcastle and Dundrum, Co Down

A ground-breaking research project, charting the coastal erosion and the shifting of sand along the coastline between Newcastle and Dundrum (Co Down) is nearing its halfway point.

In April 2019, a team of coastal scientists led by Professor Derek Jackson from Ulster University (UU), and working closely with the National Trust (NI) for site access, began conducting regular surveys of the beach and dune system to find out how, and why, our coastline changes.

The saga of Newcastle's disappearing sands is well known. Its golden sands along the promenade have moved down the coast and left stony outcrops, where once sandy areas existed. While it is not unique to this stretch of coast, it is a particularly striking example of long-shore drift and its associated consequences.

The study forms part of the €6.4m MarPAMM project (Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring). Findings from the MarPAMM project will be used to inform us of potential future changes to our protected coastal environments, to help better plan how we use and protect our fragile seaside. This science-led management approach will develop tools and plans to protect the vulnerable marine habitats and species in local waters.

The UU team of coastal scientists have been carrying out monthly surveys along the stretch of shore from Keel Point running south towards the beach

below Royal County Down Golf Course, and more recently, have installed a camera within the National Trust nature reserve, to give daily recordings of beach changes.

The UU team continue to examine these changes in detail using state-of-the-art techniques. Professor Jackson (UU) stated: "Our coasts are constantly changing but these changes are becoming more apparent when extreme weather events increase and sea levels rise. Using ground-based survey technology, and computer wave modelling, we can now study rapid changes in the movements of beach sands at this site. Research to date has shown that the sandy beaches at Newcastle have, over the past few decades, been pushed down the coast towards Ballykinler through the action of waves and tides. With increased

storm events we are studying how this may present itself in the near future."

Melina Quinn, a Nature Conservation Adviser with the National Trust, stated: "These dunes and this coastline have stood the test of time. The dunes have been here for 6,000 years and our aim is to ensure they are here for many generations, if not centuries to come."

For more information on the MarPAMM project

Match-funding for the MarPAMM 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.



Regular surveys are being carried out on the stretch of shore between Newcastle and Dundrum to find out how, and why, our coastline is changing.

Go Walking: Shared Education Pupils Involved in Innovative Walking Initiative

Over the last few months the €28.9m CASE project (Collaboration and Sharing in Education) has been rolling out a new initiative known as Share the Walk #CASEPeaceSharetheWalk.

The initiative aims to:

- ▶ Support schools in their shared education journey within the current constraints of COVID-19;
- ▶ Provide some ideas to implement shared education into curriculum areas, such as PE and well-being;
- ▶ Utilise the established cross-border resources within the network of existing CASE schools;
- ▶ Provide an opportunity for school children to get to know one another, beyond their immediate locale, learning what other pupils are doing in shared education;
- ▶ Increase the number of school children actively engaged in outdoor learning as a safe shared space.

Each week the CASE team issue a number of challenges which schools can take part in. The challenges tie in with the pupils' well-being goals, as well as contributing to the PE and mathematical curriculum. The challenges also include an environmental element.

As schools reach a determined number of km's/miles, they are invited to purchase trees which will be planted in the autumn in shared community spaces. These will be a collective reminder of the CASE project



A poster produced by one of the CASE pupils involved in the Share the Walk Initiative.

but will also enable these outdoor spaces to become an outdoor learning environment.

With the variances in COVID-19 restrictions, some schools started to take part in virtual walks. The CASE team hope to further develop this to include all of the schools involved in the CASE project.

As part of the initiative pupils were asked to design Share the Walk posters and take photos of places they discovered along the way, sharing them on Twitter if they choose to.

CASE aims to build a culture of good relations amongst children and young people in a school-based setting. Delivery is through the provision of direct, sustained, curricular-based contact between children and teachers from all backgrounds.

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department of Education, Northern Ireland and the Department of Education and Skills, Ireland.



A virtual map of all the schools taking part in the CASE project. The team hope that all of the schools can one day take part in a virtual walk together.

CONTINUING TO BUILD A MORE PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS AND STABLE SOCIETY UNDER THE NEW PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME

What is the PEACE PLUS Programme?

Worth approximately €1bn, the PEACE PLUS Programme is a combination of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes, supporting similar objectives but with opportunities for new and exciting projects / activities.

The SEUPB is currently engaged in a statutory public consultation on the draft content of the new Programme, before its final approval by the European Commission, the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive. This consultation started on Wednesday 10 March and will close on Wednesday 12 May. For more details, including how to respond

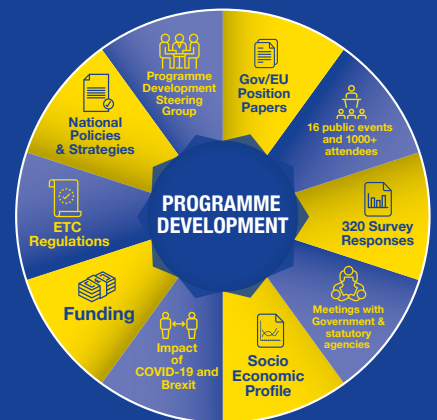
The design of the new PEACE PLUS Programme reflects the importance of peace-building activity, but also the importance of actions that will contribute positively to the economy, building prosperity and adjusting to the new environment and challenges we face.

Empowering communities is a central theme, as is supporting the personal development, mental health and well-being of our young people; reskilling and upskilling; improving access to healthcare and the protection of our natural environment. The Programme will also invest in cross-border transport infrastructure and will encourage cross-border cooperation and partnership building.

How was the Programme Developed?

In late 2019 a comprehensive, cross-border, stakeholder engagement process took place. This involved 16 public consultation events in early 2020, with over 1,000 citizens attending and over 300 survey responses submitted. You can find a copy of the survey response report

The Programme has been developed as a result of intensive stakeholder engagement and a review of all relevant research material. From the outset of the Programme development process, the SEUPB has adopted a firm partnership approach, at all levels, and included many community actors.



WHAT ARE THE PROGRAMMES THEMES?

Six key themes have been developed for the PEACE PLUS Programme.



Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities

THEME 1:

Designed to empower local community partnerships, through the delivery of co-designed local community PEACE Action Plans with Councils across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. It will help to build positive relations where cultural diversity is celebrated and also re-image communities through the provision of new shared spaces and services.



Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation

THEME 2:

Designed to enhance the growth and competitiveness of SMEs in order to help create new jobs in a post-Brexit landscape. It can support R&I development in key growth sectors, address key skills gaps and invest in a Smart Towns and Villages Development Programme.



Empowering and Investing in Young People

THEME 3:

Designed to support shared education and potential integrated education activities, develop vulnerable young people (aged 14-24) as well as create a youth mental health and well-being initiative, to improve understanding of mental health issues and enhance emotional resilience.



Healthy and Inclusive Communities

THEME 4:

Designed to build upon and create new cross-border approaches to improve health and social care for citizens. It can also support rural regeneration, social inclusion measures and develop the capacity for services that meet the needs and demands of victims and survivors of the conflict/troubles.



Supporting a Sustainable and Better Connected Future

THEME 5:

Designed to help protect habitats and priority species, our shared marine and cross-border coastal environment, as well as improve water quality in Lough Erne, Lough Melvin and Donegal Bay. It will also invest in a geothermal energy demonstration project and cross-border rail infrastructure improvements.



Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration

THEME 6:

Designed to enable joint development and management strategies that can identify solutions to reduce obstacles to greater cross-border cooperation at all levels.

PRISM Project Sheds Light on Community Relationships in a Changing Northern Ireland

In February the €670,000 Promoting Reconciliation and Integration Through Safe Mediation (PRISM) project held a week-long online conference, reviewing the key findings of the project and facilitating conversations on the lived experiences of newcomer and traditional communities in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

Led by the British Red Cross, in partnership with ArtsEkta, Corrymeela and the Irish Red Cross, PRISM implemented an integration and good relations programme to participants from the Catholic; Protestant; Refugee; Asylum Seekers and Vulnerable Migrant communities.

Participant activities focused on arts and holistic therapies determined by the programme participants and included massage, sound healing, dance, flower arranging and basket making.

Small grants were also available to enable groups in North and West Belfast; South and East Belfast; Newry; Craigavon; Magherafelt; Derry/Londonderry and Antrim to sustain the new contacts and friendships made during the programme.

Key findings from the project included the identification of:

- ▶ Significant levels of loneliness and social isolation, in both host and new communities, with many struggling to find opportunities and activities to connect with others in a meaningful way;



- ▶ Gaps in refugee integration support, including barriers to seeking employment, public transport, health services and connecting with community support and activities. Language remains a barrier to integration for all communities;
- ▶ The need for more engagement work with Northern Ireland host communities to help them welcome and include newcomer communities.

PRISM brought together three communities to achieve positive attitudinal change. As a pilot, the approach worked by testing the viability of such a programme to bring communities together.

It provided an environment for people to talk and illustrated a willingness, on all sides, to engage in a safe space. The programme has drawn attention to the needs of the newcomer communities in Northern Ireland, as expressed in their own words, and there was a great deal of empathy displayed between traumatised communities.

PRISM partners understand that more work is required in this area. As British Red Cross NI Director, Sharon Sinclair explained: "Post-conflict

Northern Ireland has seen increasing numbers of newcomers join our local communities for many reasons and from many countries, including people seeking refuge from displacement, violence and persecution of war. The PRISM research report clearly shows how straightforward changes to how newcomers are welcomed, perceived and supported in our local communities, can help build positive and inclusive relationships which benefit all community members, new and traditional. We look forward to sharing our findings and recommendations."

To view a copy of the report

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



Hundreds of Local People Enjoy Using New Cross-Border Greenway Each Week



With lockdown still keeping us all close to home there is very little for people to do other than cycle or walk.

Thanks to an investment of £2.2m, locals in Lifford and Strabane are benefitting from a new cycling and walking route.

Work on the new greenway began in May 2020 and is due for completion by the summer of 2021.

Already, hundreds of people are enjoying smooth, flat, uninterrupted pathways, including: walkers; cyclists; runners; roller-skaters and dog-owners.

The development incorporates an 8km route constructed between the two towns, connecting the A5, Derry Road, Canal Basin, River Mourne Flood Wall and Strabane Retail Park to Lifford town centre, and onwards to St Patrick's Primary School in Murlog.

Amendments to existing road kerb alignments; new shared paths; new road markings and signage; drainage; hard and soft landscaping; new path lighting; and adjustments to existing road lighting and boundary treatments are also part of the works.

This development falls under route three (Lifford – Strabane) of the €14.9m North West Greenway Network project.



An aerial shot of a section in Lifford linking Murlog primary school to Strabane town centre.

Led by Derry City and Strabane District Council, together with project partners Donegal County Council, Department for Infrastructure and Sustrans, the project will construct 46.5km of Greenway infrastructure along three key border crossings in the North West of Ireland.

Once complete, these routes will offer safe and segregated infrastructure to encourage cross-border cycling and walking, while delivering modal shift

and sustainable travel to reduce the carbon footprint of the North West Region.

To learn more about the North West Greenway Network project

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department for Infrastructure, Northern Ireland and the Department of Transport, Ireland.



Work on the Strabane bypass is almost complete.

Progressing Peace in the Belfast City Council Area

In the last edition of Your EU we featured an update on the new, £5.1m Forth Meadow Community Greenway. However, this is just one of the projects being delivered under Belfast City Council's £14.5m, PEACE IV, Local Authority Action Plan.

As well as Shared Spaces and Services, the Action Plan is devoted to facilitating and delivering both Children and Young People and Building Positive Relations projects.

One of the Children and Young People projects is Young Advocates. Led by Co-operation Ireland, Young Advocates is a citizenship intervention project for young people aged 16-24, to equip them to be leaders of the future and advocates for peaceful change.

Focusing particularly on interface communities and areas that sit within a Neighbourhood Renewal Area, participants have gained recognised qualifications in Good Relations, Diversity and Mentoring. The programme has also allowed participants to organise and deliver youth-led social justice campaigns, engaging with up to 800 of their younger peers.

Having commenced in early 2019, more than 45 Young Advocates have so far completed the programme and have engaged their peers; delivering campaigns, workshops and sessions across the city.

One of the Building Positive Relations projects is Transform for Change.



Since the programme began in late 2019, over 250 participants have participated and will be focusing on joint projects within their communities. The 10-module leadership course is open to citizens, policy makers and public and statutory service providers; building leadership skills and solutions-based approaches to work collectively to address issues of segregation, prejudice and hate.

Funding for collaborative area-based projects is available upon completion of the course, where project groups can apply for £4,000 of funding support to jointly deliver projects on the ground within their cluster area.

Speaking about the progress of the Action Plan, Councillor John Kyle, Chair of Shared City Partnership, said: "During 2020 and emerging into 2021, COVID-19 has drastically changed how we lead our lives and altered how we work, learn, socialise and play. In spite of all the challenges, one thing that hasn't changed is the resilience, drive and dynamism of our communities. We are very proud of the progress the PEACE IV Programme

has made and the positive change it has galvanised and built upon so far among communities in the city, creating an enduring legacy."

By December 2021, it is anticipated that:

- ▶ Over 4,600 children and young people will have participated in one of the various projects under the Children and Young People theme.
- ▶ 3,260 people will have taken part in one of the various projects under the Building Positive Relations theme.
- ▶ And 600 citizens will have been involved in creating an exciting 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.

Bridging the Gap Between Research and Innovation

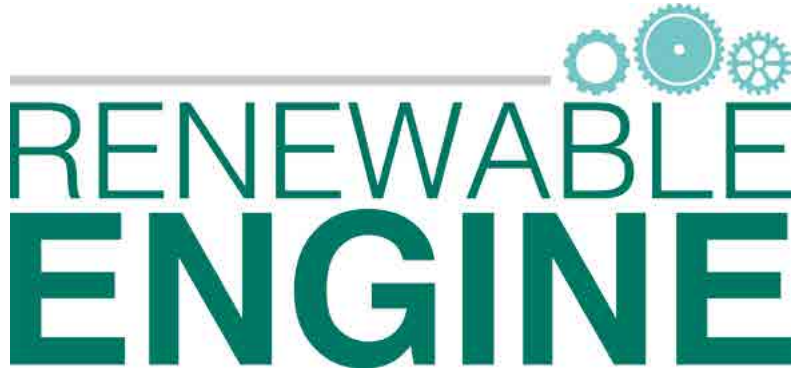
Since launching in late 2017, the €5.8m Renewable Engine project has facilitated direct knowledge transfer and technological development in the Advanced Manufacturing and Renewable Energy Sectors, with research focusing on areas such as Energy Generation, Energy Storage and Innovative Enabling Technologies.

The unique industry-academic collaborative project aimed to spearhead innovation in the renewable energy sector, by giving companies access to world class facilities and resources available through academic partners.

Led by South West College, it operates across a network of research institutes including Queen's University Belfast, Institute of Technology Sligo and the University of Strathclyde's High-Value Manufacturing Catapult.

It is helping to deliver dedicated research support to industry through the placement of 11 PhD researchers and a further four postdoctoral researchers, bridging the 'innovation gap' typically observed between academic and commercial entities.

In November 2020, the project team met virtually for the third (and final) Research Colloquium with participation from all PhD students. Instead of the standard 'research progress' presentations, the PhD students were pitted against each other and given the challenge of detailing the commercialisation potential of



their project in a short and concise presentation.

PhD researcher, Eleanor Smith (University of Strathclyde) has been trialling AR technology for collaborative robot assembly. Entitled '*Industry 4.0 & Augmenting the Millennial Worker*', Eleanor's project is investigating how traditional paper-based instructions and procedures for assembly tasks can be replaced with Augmented Reality (AR) technology.

Working closely with her industry partner, Booth Welsh, Eleanor has been conducting socially distanced trials at the company's Head Office. With the help of iTech, and their Techman Robot, the trials involve using mobile AR technology (i.e. smart phone or tablet) to guide the user on how to assemble a Cobot and perform simple tasks. The final outputs of the project will be known later in 2021.

Through engagement and partnership with the project, enterprises ranging from micro-SMEs to large multinationals, have had the opportunity to apply for technology

development grant funding to help bridge the gap between research and technological innovation within industry.

To date, approximately €350,000 has been awarded in technology development grant funding to the partnered enterprises in order to support and advance their potential within the Renewable Energy sector.

For all the latest news on the Renewable Engine project

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

Mid Ulster Towns and Villages Welcome New Open Spaces

Work to develop new open spaces in towns and villages in Mid Ulster Towns recently commenced.

Supported with £700,000 under Mid Ulster's £3.3m, PEACE IV, Local Authority Action Plan, the project will bring about the transformation of civic spaces in Aughnacloy, Donaghmore and Moy; as well as in the towns of Draperstown, Moneymore and Castledawson.

Aughnacloy playing fields will be enhanced with the creation of a new play park, while in Castledawson (at Boyne Road pitch) a new multi-use games area, complete with fencing and lighting, will provide greater opportunities for outdoor play.

Plantin Park, in Draperstown, is to be revitalised with landscaping work, new picnic tables and improvements to existing paths and fencing, with similar work also taking place in the village's Fairhill.

In Donaghmore, the existing riverside walk will receive a facelift, as well as the planting of a new sensory garden and lighting, while a stroll along the river in Moy will be enhanced following completion of the main works, which will include landscaping and a new 'hexapath' grass pathway, which will be illuminated.

An upgrade to the Moneymore Recreation Centre site will involve extensive landscaping of the area, with new paths, bins and lighting installed.



Chair of Mid Ulster Council, Cathal Mallaghan, is pictured with Damian McCaul from Donaghmore District Development Association beside the Riverside Walk which is set to be developed as part of the major investment in local villages.

The contractor delivering the programme is MP Coleman and all six project elements are due to be completed by the end of June 2021.

Speaking ahead of the commencement of works, Chair of the Council, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, said: "One of the three key priorities for delivery under the PEACE IV Programme is Shared Spaces and Services, which, in essence, is all about creating places in our communities. These can be enjoyed by everyone and help to contribute to a greater sense of community spirit and cohesion."

"These projects show those ideas in action and have all been developed with, and by, local people. It's a real pleasure to see six of our villages benefit from this extensive investment via the PEACE IV Programme," he continued.

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

Revitalising, Regenerating and Re-imagining Rural Communities



A three-year, €2.58m project (funded under the EU's Interreg Atlantic Area Programme) is helping to revitalise, regenerate and re-imagine rural communities by developing a 'shared vision' for the future sustainable development of Atlantic Area trail sites; including their natural and cultural assets and surrounding towns, villages, and countryside.

Known as TrailGazers, the project is collectively measuring the economic and social impact from investing and creatively promoting identified trails across the Atlantic Area, developing a transnationally tested framework which enables the future management and promotion of the trails.

This represents an opportunity to maintain local citizen and tourist connections with natural and cultural heritage; through stimulating local economies with employment creation, new products and services and enhancing the attractiveness of the regions as places to live, work and thrive. The project wants to enable a 5% increase in trail visitors, a 10% increase in local business sales and profitability, as well as a 10% increase in employment in local enterprises.

The pilot trails for this project will be located in eight partner regions:



- ▶ La Caldera De Taburiente / La Palma Canarias, Spain
- ▶ Sete Vales Suspensos Algarve, Portugal
- ▶ Knocknarea / Killspugbrone Loop Sligo, Ireland
- ▶ Chemin De Memoires Ille-Et-Vilaine, France
- ▶ Taff Trail Central Valleys, United Kingdom
- ▶ Via Verde Del Plazaola Navarra, Spain
- ▶ Inch Levels Donegal, Ireland
- ▶ Trilho Da Montanha Sagrada Alto Minho, Portugal

TrailGazers involves 10 partners including Ulster University in Northern Ireland; with the Ulster team made up of Business and Computing disciplines: Prof Elaine Ramsey/

Dr Sharon Loane and Prof Joan Condell/Kyle Madden, respectively.

The Ulster team recently secured a high-impact journal paper, published in the Special Issue 'State-of-the-Art Sensors Technologies in Ireland 2020' journal. The paper is entitled 'TrailGazers: A scoping study of footfall sensors to aid tourist trail management in Ireland and other Atlantic Areas of Europe'.

To view a copy of this paper

For more information on the project

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:

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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:

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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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Special EU Programmes Body

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