

YOUR EU!

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



Special EU Programmes Body
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
Special EU Skemes Boadie

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SPRING 2022

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<https://www.seupb.eu>

FOREWORD

WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF YOUR EU!

Despite a slow return to normality, I am still very thankful to see that restrictions continue to be eased. As we move towards the summer months we remain hopeful that we can hold larger gatherings and that I can go out, once again, and personally visit more projects and beneficiaries to hear and see all of the fantastic work that they have been able to achieve.

Over the last couple of months I have been able to once again attend physical events and I wish to commend all of the project staff and partners on their creative efforts to put on these events safely.

The cross-border partnerships created and nurtured under every EU PEACE IV and INTERREG VA funded project are helping to make a more prosperous and peaceful society, on both sides of the border. In this edition we delve into what exactly this cross-border partnership working involves, with reflections from the project partners who are delivering the €8.4m Eastern Corridor Medical Engineering Centre (ECME) project.

ECME has created a cross-border centre of research excellence within the field of cardiovascular medicine, with partners from Northern Ireland, the border counties of Ireland and Western Scotland. This highly innovative partnership demonstrates how academia and industry can collaborate together to deliver a truly inspiring project, even in the midst of a pandemic.

Also included within this edition are a number of project updates including the discovery of the potential for remote and rural communities on the west coast of Scotland to tap into community-owned renewable energy schemes, due to research conducted by the €9.4m Bryden Centre. You can find information on page 4. This edition also includes details of the publication of some really positive results from the €1.2m regional Shaping Ourselves and Our Children project, as part of an end of project evaluation report. You can read more about this on page 9.

We have also been working on the implementation of the new €1.14bn EU PEACEPLUS Programme, which has been approved by the Northern Ireland Executive, the Government of Ireland and the North South Ministerial Council. It is currently with the European Commission for approval and we anticipate opening new funding calls in late spring.



We have already provided pre-development support for the new Children and Young People call and will be organising additional workshop events for each call throughout the year. Please continue to follow our social media channels for more information on PEACEPLUS. You can also sign up for regular updates by requesting to join the PEACEPLUS mailing list:

peaceplus@seupb.eu

Should you wish to get in touch about the content of this magazine, or suggestions for future editions, then please don't hesitate to contact our communications department:

communications@seupb.eu

Warmest regards,

GINA MCINTYRE
Chief Executive, SEUPB

RENEWABLE HOPE FOR RURAL SCOTTISH WEST COAST



The potential for remote and rural communities across Scotland's west coast to tap into community-owned renewable energy schemes may be greater than previously thought.

The discovery was made by Dr Emma Whettall, the first of the Scottish-based Bryden Centre students to achieve a PhD.

The €9.4m Bryden Centre project aimed to create a cross-border research centre for renewable energy projects. This research included the use of tidal power and wave power across the coasts of Western Scotland, Northern Ireland and Donegal, as well as bioenergy from farm and household waste.

One of the key outputs of the project was to recruit 34 PhD students and six post-doctoral research associates. These students are delivering industry inspired research to tackle important challenges within the sector.

The Bryden Centre was named after the late University of the Highlands and Island's Professor Ian Bryden, who was a leading expert in marine renewable energy.

Dr Whettall, who studied at the Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI and now works for an international company as an environmental modeller across their Scottish business operation,

identified 33 sites along Scotland's west coast, including 15 new locations where small-scale tidal energy devices could be considered.

The sites were identified using a computer model devised by researchers at the Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI. Flow speed and power potential of these sites were then explored in more detail through a low-cost method developed as part of Dr Whettall's PhD work, using an SLR camera at a vantage point to capture images of the tidal flow every two seconds.

Damian Collins, project manager added: "Emma's work is an indication of the potential for small-scale tidal energy schemes, and whilst her research focused on the west coast of Scotland, there are many other tidal resources across Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland that could have the potential to realise small-scale energy schemes."

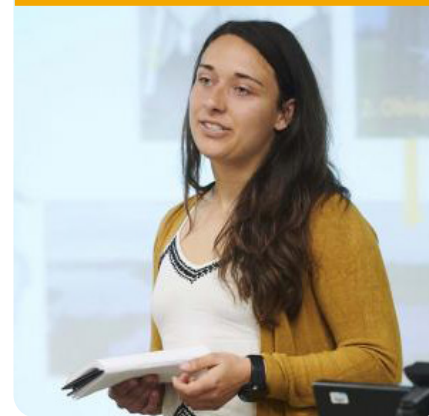
For more information on the Bryden Centre



Based on our findings, these sites would definitely warrant further investigation, as other factors such as environmental and social impacts would have to be considered too. There is great potential around community ownership of energy but also issues over scale and cost.

Dr Emma Whettall

Dr Emma Whettall, the first Bryden Centre student to achieve a PhD, identified more than 30 sites along Scotland's west coast where small-scale tidal energy devices could be considered.



MATCH-FUNDING

The Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Ireland.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS EXTREMELY POSITIVE RESULTS FOR YOUTH-LED PROJECT



A report, commissioned by Include Youth and conducted by independent evaluators, has indicated some extremely positive results and provided a qualitative evaluation of the €3.9m Strive project.

The project featured young people who are 'Expert by Experience'. They are young people who have come on board to volunteer with the partnership having previously benefited from engaging with programmes in the partnership organisations. They reflected on their own personal experiences and developed their leadership skills in order to shape Strive into an entirely youth-led and youth centred programme for their peers.

Strive brought together approximately 800 disadvantaged young people, aged 14-24, from diverse community backgrounds to promote change in themselves and their local communities.

Across its four-year duration young people, from both sides of the border, worked together to set their own learning agenda around the themes of citizenship, personal development and good relations.

In total, 40 different stakeholders engaged in the report's evaluation, including teachers, youth workers, *Expert by Experience* volunteers, participants (current and past) and parents.

According to the findings, Strive was viewed very positively. Young people described the programme as "*absolutely brilliant*", "*outstanding*", "*fantastic*" and "*the best*". This was echoed by parents who stated that their child "*loved everything about it*", "*thrived in it*", and "*got a lot out of it*". Teachers also recognised the benefits, describing it as "*really excellent*" and highlighted that the responses from pupils was "*superb*" and "*unbelievable*".

For more comments and feedback from participants, teachers and parents view the report



After time Strive felt like a family. Especially when you compare with other groups. Other groups you don't matter when it finishes but with Strive they are still checking in with me and keeping in touch.

Participant



MATCH-FUNDING

The Department for the Economy Northern Ireland and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Ireland.

MANAGING FUTURE CARE NEEDS FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN NI AND BORDER COUNTIES



As the percentage of older people increases across the island of Ireland, the complexity of care to support those who choose to remain in the community has also increased and this is what one primary care feasibility study, funded under the INTERREG VA CHITIN project, set out to research.

The Anticipatory Care Planning (ACP) study is part of the €10.6m Cross-border Healthcare Intervention Trials In Ireland Network (CHITIN) project.

The ACP study aimed to support older people at risk of functional decline and was led by Professor Kevin Brazil from Queen's University Belfast, the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland and National University of Ireland, Galway.

Eight General Practitioner (GP) practices, four in Northern Ireland and four from counties Monaghan and Louth, participated in this health intervention research.

A core aspect of the ACP intervention was a series of discussions with the patient and health professionals; to clarify goals, options and preferences and from this, an agreed personalised care plan was developed. The research was documented and progress was reviewed at key stages.

Overall, acceptability of the ACP intervention was high among patients and GP practices. Main findings concluded:

- ▶ The personalised approach was welcomed by patients.
- ▶ Home visits were endorsed by all project participant groups: the benefits were seeing the patient in their own environment; early detection of health issues; access to care; combating loneliness and social isolation.
- ▶ Anchoring the ACP intervention in General Practice was endorsed by project participants.

The Anticipatory Care Planning study was led by Professor Kevin Brazil from Queen's University Belfast.



Our project examined a primary care intervention to assist older adults at risk of functional decline. Patients were unanimous in the acceptance of the intervention and health care providers viewed it as feasible to implement in routine practice. Key health professionals suggested that it should involve an integrated service approach, GP buy-in, patient health education, and nurse training. Our findings have implications for a future research and service development.

***Professor Kevin Brazil,
Queen's University
Belfast***

For more information on the ACP Study visit:

&

MATCH-FUNDING

Departments of Health in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

REFLECTING ON CROSS-BORDER PARTNERSHIP WORKING

In this edition of Your EU we take a closer look at cross-border partnership working, with reflections from project partners involved in the €8.4m Eastern Corridor Medical Engineering Centre (ECME) project.

ECME has created a cross-border centre of research excellence within the field of cardiovascular medicine, with partners from Northern Ireland, the border counties of Ireland and Western Scotland.

But just how do the voices and opinions of academia and industry become one to make some key project decisions, particularly during the pandemic...

Describe how you finalise decisions

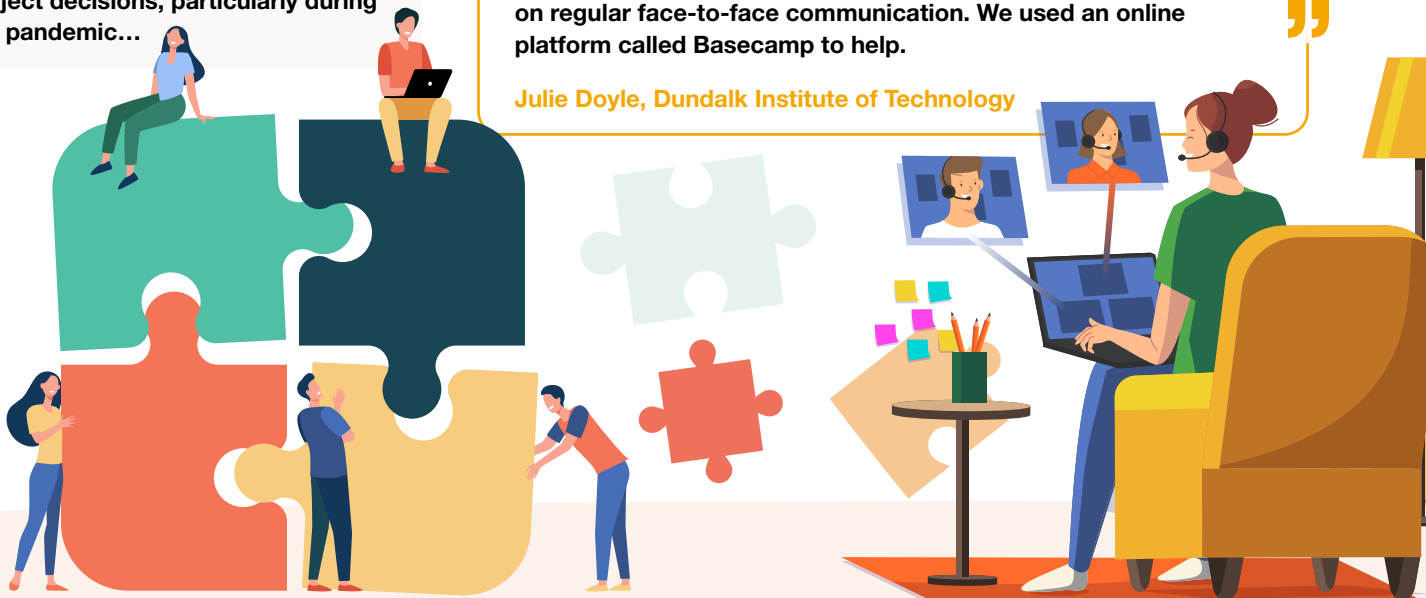
“ The ECME board is very consensus driven and we try to ensure that all voices are heard. Many of our decisions are assisted by various project management staff who come with solid recommendations. We have a range of skills and backgrounds represented on the board, so we often have differing perspectives however, we regularly come to the same conclusion. ”

Prof James McLaughlin, Ulster University

How did you communicate during the pandemic?

“ Digitally, via our social media channels and video conferencing. The main challenge was around the production of joint publications. This type of work is more organic and relies on regular face-to-face communication. We used an online platform called Basecamp to help. ”

Julie Doyle, Dundalk Institute of Technology





What is it really like to be a board member?

Being on a board is a diverse role. You have to consider all aspects of a project including communications; project finances; project management; scientific research and the logistics of events. In a large project like ECME, when you are doing novel research, the work can be unpredictable, so you must adapt to changing circumstances.

Dr David McEnaney, Southern Health and Social Care Trust

How did you manage your time/energy during the toughest days of the pandemic?

I, like many of my academic colleagues, had to navigate to online teaching, remote meetings and lab closures caused by the restrictions. To cope, I learned to be kind and forgiving of myself, that I was doing my best and was surrounded by many other people who were feeling the same way. I would engage the support network of my academic colleagues and family. I also created certainty wherever I could, seeking out things that I knew I could control and not dwell on those that I couldn't.

Prof Paul, Cahill Dublin City University

Are there any lessons learned from partnership working during the pandemic?

I think the key thing was to be adaptable in changing circumstances. When the pandemic hit there was a school of thought that said that companies were battering down the hatches and this was not a good time for innovation. However, the board made the decision to react to the crisis by re-purposing the industry focussed mini-project fund and expanding it to offer companies the opportunity to switch to making products to help fight COVID. This was very successful and we received many high-quality applications and has led to considerable economic and health benefits.

Prof Brian Caulfield, University College Dublin

Can you outline partnership collaboration

Where joint research is required the key is to develop trust and strong relationships at all levels within the project. Residential meetings, where we discuss both the project and our personal lives, is extremely important to understand each other's perspectives. This is particularly important in multi-disciplinary research where we are all from different research backgrounds and often talk in different languages!

Prof Ian Megson, University of the Highlands and Islands

For more information on the ECME project

MATCH-FUNDING

The Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Ireland.

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY IN THE COMMUNITY



A case study, compiled and produced by 'Children and Young People Now' between December 2021 and January 2022, found that the PEACE IV-funded 'Shaping Ourselves and Our Children' project (SOOC), helped parents realise how their behaviour and prejudices affected their children and others; enabling them to develop respect for difference.

The €1.2m, inter-generational SOOC project aimed to promote reconciliation and good relations by addressing the site where identity, values and social attitudes are initially formed and shaped - in the home; where the parent is the key actor and where caregiver/child relationships and interactions are foundational to child development and learning.

Over the course of the project's duration 210 programmes were delivered to 1,669 parents or carers and 3,000 children benefited.

During the pandemic, SOOC adapted to online sessions and developed a blog and a series of webinars, which proved popular with parents.

Parents were also surveyed before and after the project. Before the course, 61% said they would like to live in a more culturally diverse community. Upon completion, this increased to 70%.

There was also an increase in the proportion who recognised existing

diversity. Before the course, 54% thought they lived in a culturally diverse community, but this increased to 68% upon completion.

91% of the participating adults stated they had learned they were prejudiced or had learned something new about prejudice. Before the course, only 17% admitted to holding such views.

Using the Tool to Measure Parenting Self-Efficacy (TOPSE), 1,197 parents were asked to score aspects of their parenting from 0 to 10 before and after the course. The scores covered eight areas such as empathy and understanding, emotion and affection. Scores increased after the course in all domains, particularly control, which increased by an average of 0.86 points, and discipline and boundaries, which increased by 0.83. Total scores increased by an average of 0.5 points.

[For a copy of the report](#)



One of the simple exercises we ran with parents and children was the box of crayons exercise. First, you give them all one colour and they have to draw a picture. Then we bring out all the colours of the crayon box and ask them to draw the same picture. When asked their favourite picture (99 of 100) everyone picked the more colourful one, which lead to a conversation about the beauty of diversity.

Mary Holmes, SOOC Project Coordinator

The project focused on early childhood development for peacekeeping and social cohesion. Pictured, young beneficiary Cathair.



MATCH-FUNDING

The Executive Office, Northern Ireland and The Department of Rural and Community Development, Ireland.



*I felt anxious at the thought of starting **HEROES**, however as time went on, I went home at night feeling excited about the next session.*

Project participant

AN UPDATE ON THE HEROES PROJECT



The €1.8m Helping Equality, Respecting Others, Enabling Success (HEROES) project schedule during 2021 was incredibly busy, supporting and delivering new and exciting activities to encourage personal development and bolster new friendships amongst its young participants.

HEROES is an inclusive, cross-community, cross-border project that is supporting hundreds of young people with, and without, learning difficulties with personal development, citizenship and good relations.

The project aims to break the downward spiral of exclusion and negative behaviour and develop confident, self-aware and engaged young people who are able to work, live and socialise with young people of different communities, backgrounds and abilities using an outcome-focused, youth development approach based on core principles.

HEROES is being delivered across Greater Belfast, Derry-Londonderry, Donegal and Fermanagh/the border counties and is led by Mencap NI, in partnership with Londonderry YMCA, Devenish Partnership Forum in Fermanagh and the Health Service Executive in Donegal and Sligo.

Speaking about the project, Mikhaila Woods, HEROES Programme Manager, said: "Thanks to Peace4Youth funding, young people with and without additional needs from Greater Belfast, Fermanagh and the border counties, and Derry/



Young participant Aoife taking part in a climbing wall task as part of an outing arranged by the Erne Integrated College HEROES group.

Londonderry and Donegal have been able to come together to share their experiences and challenge themselves in ways they never thought possible. It has been a real pleasure to see them grow in confidence and skills throughout their time on HEROES."

To learn more about project activities

MATCH-FUNDING

The Department for the Economy Northern Ireland and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Ireland.

CROSS-BORDER HEALTHCARE PROJECT BRINGS JOY AND SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



A healthcare project is transforming the lives of vulnerable children and families, most at risk from a range of challenges in their lives, by identifying, intervening (at an early stage) and providing support within their own homes and communities.

The €5m Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (MACE) project is one of four initiatives being delivered under the INTERREG VA Programme by the Co-operation and Working Together Partnership (CAWT).

As part of the MACE project a number of interventions are being delivered. Provided through local businesses, community and voluntary organisations these interventions include:

- ▶ **Universal:** information programmes for families to help build healthy relationships, reduce stress, develop coping strategies and build resilience. Examples include parenting workshops, mindfulness and school transition programmes.
- ▶ **Targeted:** programmes that are designed to help families who have experienced specific trauma or adversity. They aim to enhance and promote skills for coping, managing emotions and developing resilience. Examples include addiction support, domestic violence recovery support, and parental separation support.
- ▶ **Specialist:** are for those children and families whose identified adversity and trauma needs cannot be fully met through universal or targeted interventions. These involve more intensive one-to-one support for a child/family. Examples include therapeutic services, family support and one-to-one outreach programmes.



Participants in MACE's Summer programme.



It was wonderful to be able to provide a summer programme for the children, which they not only enjoyed, but deserved. We at LYFS were delighted to welcome the families to Letterkenny and support them to build strong links within their community.

**Garry Glennon,
Manager, LYFS**

As of February 2022, 2,586 families and children have benefitted from these interventions.

During 2021, MACE identified tenders for summer programmes for vulnerable children (aged from 4-17) impacted by early childhood trauma in the Donegal area.

A number of organisations submitted proposals including Letterkenny Youth and Family Services (LYFS), providing a safe space for the children from asylum seeking families to meet and participate in group type activities with other school-attending children within the community. Activities included scavenger hunts, excursions and team building challenges.

**For all the latest
information on the
MACE project**

MATCH-FUNDING

The Departments of Health, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY LEADERS ON THE BENEFITS OF SHARED EDUCATION

Tara Kingston, leader of Little Bridges Preschool Florencecourt and Rachel Harron, leader of Tiny Tots Mullymesker in West Fermanagh recently shared their experiences of working in partnership and how it has benefitted them as practitioners and provided new experiences for the children they are responsible for.

Both Tara and Rachel are taking part in the €4.3m Sharing from the Start initiative which involves early years settings throughout Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland and is helping to deliver a programme of Shared Education to children in the early years sector.

Tara and Rachel are leaders of two rural preschools, just three miles apart, who have partnered together as part of the initiative.

Discussing the nurseries involvement, Tara outlined: "I often said it's crazy that there are two nurseries very close to each other, facing the same challenges every day, we really should link up. But we just never got round to it, until Sharing from the Start gave us the opportunity. We jumped at the chance to get involved. I remember years ago there would have been reservations about cross-community programmes like this, now it's the norm! It is lovely that the children will get to carry on with Shared Education when they transition to primary school."

Rachel further added: "After the first year, when we figured out what we were doing, it came naturally the next year and is now part of our routine. There's nothing to lose from working in partnership, the benefits are much wider. At the beginning, setting up can be quite daunting but think of the children and how great it is for them. While we always said we had the intention of working together, Sharing from the Start made it happen. Shared Education isn't an add on, it's just part of our school day."

Pre COVID-19, the pre-schools had a range of sessions together focussing on different areas of the curriculum such as outdoor learning at Florencecourt House, putting on activities and performances in local halls for parents.

Since COVID-19, the focus turned online with the children holding virtual nature trails and exchanging Christmas messages. While it has helped to keep connections the leaders agree it's no substitute for face-to-face Shared Education and they hope, as restrictions ease, they will be able to get back to that soon. As Rachel

We'd love our partnership to continue long into the future. In a structured, reasoned and formal way.

Fermanagh preschools Little Bridges and Tiny Tots on their Shared Education journey

For all the latest news on the project

Rachel Harron and Tara Kingston.



MATCH-FUNDING

Department of Education in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

PILOT LAND INCENTIVE SCHEME A SUCCESS

The €4.9m Source to Tap project piloted a Land Incentive Scheme in the River Derg catchment, upstream of the Derg Water Treatment Works, to determine if it is more cost-effective to reduce contaminants at source than removing higher concentrations of them during the treatment process.

The scheme was launched in July 2018 and closed for new applications at the end of 2020. Over its lifetime, staff received 255 expressions of interest, resulting in 236 farm walkovers to farm businesses in the Derg area.

These visits identified over 1,700 individual points on farms where improvements could benefit water quality. Farmers received a Water Environment

Management Plan, setting out recommendations for improvements.

Farmers employed contractors to carry out the work to the scheme's specifications and despite the challenges of COVID-19, work continued, with around half of the measures being installed in the latter part of the project during 2021. The total value of work claimed is €1,160,986 (March 2022).

Analysis of water quality monitoring data indicates that the LIS has had a strong positive impact on MCPA concentrations in the Derg Catchment with marked reductions in Derg (LIS catchment) concentrations and loads relative to the Finn (control catchment) since implementation of Land Incentive Scheme measures.

Work on farms has included:



2,400 acres weed wiped to reduce the load of MCPA in the river.



75 pesticide storage units installed to safely contain farm chemicals and reduce the risk of herbicide run-off from damaged or leaky containers.



56km of fencing next to watercourses on 78 farms to prevent livestock from entering the watercourses and reduce soil erosion.



69 of these 78 farms with fencing had alternative drinking water sources provided.

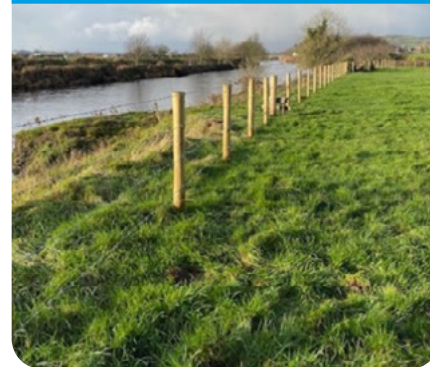


35 farm tracks repaired to prevent run-off from sediment into watercourses.



20 clean/dirty water separation projects to reduce the amount of dirty water on farms.

Weed wiping, pesticide storage units, livestock fencing, downpipes and farmyard improvements have all been successfully delivered as part of the pilot Land Incentive Scheme.



MATCH-FUNDING

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland.

[To find out more about the Source to Tap project](#)

PRE-DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT DELIVERED FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE THEME OF PEACEPLUS



In recognition of the need to develop new projects that will support vulnerable children and young people the SEUPB coordinated a special on-line pre-development workshop, late last year.

The workshop was aimed at youth focused organisations across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland who could apply for funding under the new EU PEACEPLUS Programme. The funding relates to Investment Area 3.2 of the Programme, which has an approximate value of €47m.

This Investment Area will enhance the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background, develop their confidence and future potential, and contribute towards the creation of a more cohesive society.

During the event potential applicants received information on what makes a strong application (including detail on the EU funding requirements, and project management responsibilities) as well as the financial implications for managing PEACEPLUS funding (including capacity, cash flow and reporting, etc.). There was also an opportunity for those watching the event online to raise questions.

Potential applicants were invited to submit a Concept Note capturing high-level project ideas. This note is not part of the application process but was used as a 'help guide' to potential applicants in order to strengthen any future applications that will be submitted under the call.

A 'Potential Partner' notice board was also created on the SEUPB's website to encourage organisations to partner in with each other ahead of the call's launch.

A filmed version of the workshop is available

The pre-application workshop took place on Friday 10 December and was aimed at youth focused organisations across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland interested in applying to the EU's PEACEPLUS Programme.

**PEACEPLUS
 Youth Programme
 Online Pre-Development
 Support Workshop**



Friday 10 December



Special EU Programmes Body
 Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
 Special EU Skemes Boadie

VIRTUAL POWER PLANT AT DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Derry City and Strabane District Council have been involved in a pilot study, investigating the possibility of utilising excess power generation from council buildings and distributing energy to other council properties within a Virtual Power Plant (VPP).

The pilot study forms part of the €1.4m Smart Energy Management in Remote Northern Peripheral and Arctic Regions (SMARCTIC) project, which has been funded through the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme.

The core aim of SMARCTIC is to increase the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions in housing and public infrastructure in remote, sparsely populated areas.

Derry City and Strabane District Council are one of six project partners working on the project. Led by ERNACT Donegal the other partners include Donegal County Council; Lapland University of Applied Sciences, Finland; Orkusetur Energy Agency, Iceland; and Region Vasternorrland, Sweden.

The pilot study saw the installation of smart meters in council sites which used renewable forms of electricity. Data from the smart meters at the council's sites was collected and analysed to form the basis of the data modelling.

The data was then used in the development of a machine learning algorithm to optimise the excess

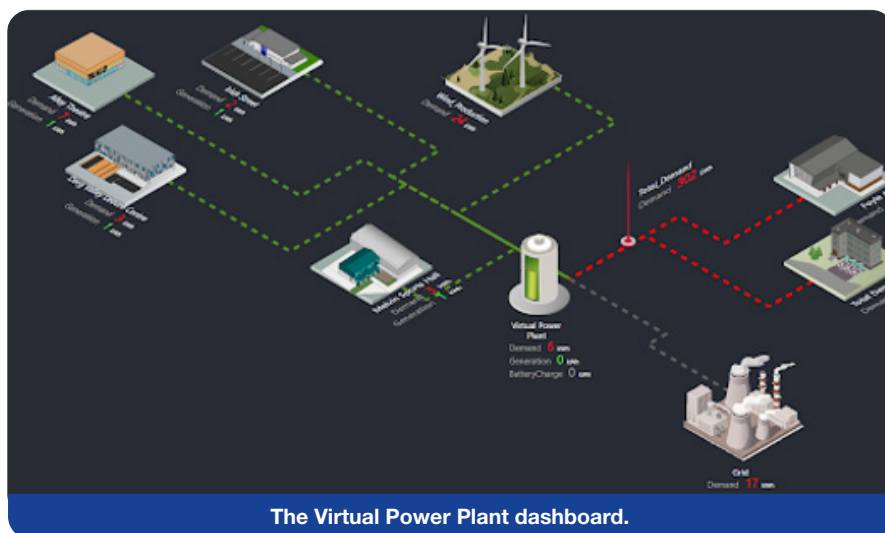
generated power and prioritise the redistribution of the excess power to buildings where it could be consumed more efficiently.

With the data modelling and machine learning algorithms in place the final part of the pilot involved the creation of a specific dashboard to display all the information from the power plant in a visual format, including energy consumption in council buildings, energy generation from renewables, battery

storage information, grid fed energy usage and energy flows within the VPP.

The VPP dashboard also displays power offset information, Co2 offset information and cost savings from the system in real time format.

**For more information
on SMARCTIC**



PROGRAMME SUMMARIES AND THE 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
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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 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:

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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 co-operation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. The 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.

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