



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

SUMMER 2022

YOUR EU!

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

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**Celebrating Creative
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FOREWORD

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF YOUR EU

Although many projects are coming to an end, the SEUPB is preparing for its biggest funding programme yet.

Many of the projects funded by PEACE IV and INTERREG are now drawing to an end, and holding their own celebration events. These events are so important as they provide an opportunity to acknowledge the achievements made over the past few years by project partnerships, staff and participants.

I particularly enjoy being able to attend these events in person whenever it is possible, as it gives me the opportunity to hear directly from the people involved in the projects and understand the real impact that the funding has made. Across the two funding Programmes PEACE IV and INTERREG VA, we fund such a wide variety of sectors and therefore projects are all so different. In this edition you can see projects focusing on everything from protecting our marine coastlines such as with COMPASS & MarPAMM, to crafting projects such as the Woollen Woods featured on page four. Some projects even combine cutting-edge technology with important historical documents, as the TIDE project has done with Virtual Reality Experiences.

Cross-border partnerships are essential within the INTERREG VA Programme, and the celebration event of mPower recently

was a fantastic example of how much partnerships can achieve. Healthcare professionals from across Scotland, Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland came together to improve the lives of thousands of elderly citizens, by implementing wellbeing plans, providing digital devices and creating shared learning experiences that have enabled people to live safely and independently in their own homes.

It is so important to recognise the achievements of all projects funded by PEACE IV and INTERREG VA, especially in light of the challenges of the last two years. The resilience of all staff and participants involved is the key to success for these projects, and demonstrates such dedication and professionalism.

Although many projects are coming to an end in the current Programmes, the SEUPB is preparing to roll out a really significant funding programme, PEACEPLUS, and so it continues to be an exciting and busy time for all involved.

The new €1.1 billion PEACEPLUS Programme is continuing to progress, with the recent European Commission's adoption of the plan. The launch of PEACEPLUS is expected later in 2022



but to help assist organisations to prepare for funding calls, the SEUPB has been running pre-development workshops, full of information on the application process. You can find out about the latest workshop on [page 11](#).

In this edition of Your EU, you will find a comprehensive introduction to PEACEPLUS, and you can discover more about the work carried out inside the SEUPB.

Our communications team are always keen to receive submissions and feedback for Your EU, so don't hesitate to get in touch with suggestions on communications@seupb.eu

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina McIntyre'.

GINA MCINTYRE
Chief Executive, the SEUPB

COLOURFUL COLLABORATIONS FEATURE IN YOUTHSCAPE CELEBRATION



Over 1,000 young people have taken part in a project focusing on a positive future.

Hundreds of young people aged 14 – 24 gathered in Enniskillen to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Youthscape project.

On the day the crowd were given a snapshot of just a few of the activities the young people had taken part in over the course of the project.

A typical week for those involved in Youthscape involved day trips, group work, learning for an OCN accredited qualification in Vocational Studies and one-to-one mentoring with a dedicated youth worker.

Music, computer design and even dramatic graffiti created by participants were all on display at the celebration event.

Each group also created a social impact project to raise funds for a nominated charity. One of these was the One Million Steps Walking Challenge that raised more than £2,600 in just 24 hours for Pieta House, a one-to-one therapeutic service.

The project was able to respond quickly to the challenge of the Covid pandemic. While the young people involved began to feel the effects of isolation, staff responded

by implementing more frequent one-to-one calls, a variety of contact methods, a dedicated health and wellbeing facilitator and fun online activities to suit all interests. The event also included a special dedication and tree planting in memory of the late Jackie McDowell, who was so instrumental in the delivery of the project.

As the project draws to a close, over 90% of the young people who have completed Youthscape have gained a positive outcome, be that education, employment or a place on an specialist programme.

Research by Queen's University has evidenced that the benefits of being on

Youthscape helped me be more confident in myself and to speak out to be heard.

Sarah, Youthscape participant

Youthscape and the similar Peace IV programmes in other counties have been:

- ▶ Increased respect for diversity
- ▶ More positive attitudes towards other ethnic groups and communities
- ▶ More self-esteem
- ▶ More resilience and self-awareness
- ▶ Willingness to engage in positive help-seeking behaviours
- ▶ More civic engagement and participation
- ▶ Support for peacebuilding

Youthscape participants celebrating at South Western College in Enniskillen.



MATCH-FUNDING

Match-funding has been provided by the Department of Education in Northern Ireland and the Department of Children and Young People.



This natural shared space in Pomeroy is something that can be built upon in the years to come.

CREATIVE CRAFTERS TAKE OVER WOODS FOR A MAGICAL ADVENTURE



Pomeroy woods are transformed into a woollen wonderland.

Pomeroy Forest was transformed this July with the Woollen Woods installation as part of Connecting Pomeroy.

Hundreds of woollen artworks created by schools, knitting groups and individuals were used to create the fantastic forest under this year's theme of Wonderful Wildlife.

As part of the community engagement programme, facilitated by Rural Action and with the support of the local Pomeroy community, this fantastic project brought the arts and the environment together.

In conjunction with the Woollen Woods display, the Connecting Pomeroy project also ran free craft workshops, including natural dye workshops, photo embroidery, embroidery, and twig weaving.

This magical project was marked by a family fun day in the forest with arts, crafts and activities taking place for all ages. The event also featured storytelling and sheep shearing.

The clever crafters at Rural Action have also created knitting patterns for anyone to use – so fans can continue Wonderful Wildlife at home.



A knitted snail was just one of the crafted creatures taking over Pomeroy woods.

Connecting Pomeroy is a €6 million PEACE IV-funded project creating community cohesion, facilities and an iconic magic forest and visitor centre in the County Tyrone village. As part of the project, Pomeroy will also benefit from a public realm upgrade, enhancing footpaths, lighting, planting and helping to connect the top and bottom of the village,

which have previously been considered to be divided by invisible peace walls.

Delivery of the Connecting Pomeroy initiative is being spearheaded by a community partnership and co-ordinated by Mid Ulster District Council.

MATCH-FUNDING

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

PEACEPLUS ADOPTED BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The new cross-border funding programme created to strengthen peace and reconciliation between Ireland and Northern Ireland is one step closer to implementation.

The European Commission has adopted the PEACEPLUS Programme which has a total budget allocation of €1.1 billion. The funding is made up from financial contributions from the EU, the UK Government, the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive, all of whom have supported and approved the Programme.

Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: “It is great news that the European Commission has formally adopted the €1.1 billion PEACEPLUS Programme which will support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

“This Programme represents a strong partnership between the EU, the Governments of the UK and Ireland and the NI Executive, all of whom have supported and approved its development.

“PEACEPLUS will build upon the work of the previous PEACE IV (2014-20) and INTERREG VA (2014-20) Programmes. It is due to be launched later this year and so as yet, no funding has been allocated.

“In due course, applications for funding will be accepted for 22 investment areas which sit within the six key themes of PEACEPLUS which are, Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities; Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation; Empowering and Investing in Our Young People; Healthy and Inclusive Communities; Supporting a Sustainable and Better-Connected Future; and Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration.”



This Programme represents a strong partnership between the EU, the Governments of the UK and Ireland and the NI Executive.

Gina McIntyre, Chief Executive, the SEUPB

In advance of Calls for Applications launching later this year, SEUPB will be delivering a number of pre-application workshops and providing support to potential applicants.

See [page 11](#) to find out more on these workshops.



European
Commission

PEACEPLUS is coming...



WHAT IS PEACEPLUS?

PEACEPLUS is a new European Union funding programme designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. This Programme includes a focus on peacebuilding activity and also on how the actions we take can contribute in positive ways to building the economy and increasing prosperity, as well as helping us adjust to new challenges.



WHY DOES THIS FUNDING EXIST?

As the previous programmes are coming to an end, the European Commission and the UK Government made provision for a new PEACEPLUS Programme under the agreement. The new programme will continue the long-standing commitments by the Commission, the UK government and the Irish government to support peace and reconciliation.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

The programme has been divided into **six themes**. Each new programme aims to address long-standing social and economic challenges which have and continue to impact our communities. Within each theme there are several investment areas - these will have a more specific focus and target specific organisations such as local authorities or community groups.



HOW CAN I APPLY?

Applications should open later in 2022. But the SEUPB want to ensure potential applications are able to continue project development in the meantime, so as much information as possible is being provided.

PEACEPLUS Themes

THEME 1

Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities

Local councils, organisations and people from every community working together peacefully. The aim is to unite communities, help them rebuild and learn from a difficult past. Projects under this theme will help community groups grow stronger, work better together and create spaces for all to share.

THEME 2

Delivering Socio-Economic Regeneration and Transformation

This theme focuses on small businesses and technology. The aim is to connect people by finding new ways to do things using technology and the internet and learning new skills. Projects can also help unite communities using technology.

THEME 3

Empowering and Investing in Our Young People

Children and young people aged 14-24 do not often get the chance to join in good things. This project will help increase diversity by bringing different communities together. There will also be a focus on mental health and wellbeing - issues that are increasingly affecting young people today.

THEME 4

Healthy and Inclusive Communities

Research has shown that social, economic and environmental factors can influence the health outcome of an individual. This theme focuses on rural communities and aims to help those who are dealing with the legacy of the Troubles. The intention is also to bring health and social care services together and support people to live independently in their own community.

THEME 5

Supporting a Sustainable & Better-Connected Future

Environment and conservation are key for this theme. It will focus on land, coastlines and the wildlife within them in Northern Ireland and the border counties. Projects are also working to improve cross-border transport links between north and south of the border.

THEME 6

Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration

Whilst the INTERREG VA and PEACE IV Programmes have made significant contributions cementing cross-border collaboration, challenges persist and some of them have arisen in the last number of years. These projects will help organisations on all sides of the community interact, communicate and learn together.

STAY UP-TO-DATE



To sign up for updates or for any other queries just email communications@seupb.eu

The most recent overview of PEACEPLUS can be found on the SEUPB website



BELFAST YOUTH WORKER ON LIFE-CHANGING BRUSSELS TRIP

European programme gives top-tier experience to young people.

The European Union Visitors Programme was set up in 1974 and aims to promote the values of the EU and engage with external partners by organising study visits to European institutions for young political leaders and opinion-formers from outside the EU. Around 300 take part in the Programme each year.

Through the Belfast-based organisation Springboard, 26-year old Georgia Ramm had the opportunity to be part of the Northern Irish delegation that made the week-long trip to Brussels in March of this year. She described the experience as ‘life-changing’, explaining that she had had little prior knowledge of the inner workings of the EU and the magnitude of its institutions before the visit.

She said: “I was working as a Youth Mentor for Springboard when the Deputy Director asked if I wanted to go to Brussels – at the time I did not really know what that meant but I was very interested in activism and advocacy and I took every opportunity that was offered to me.

“From landing in Brussels and being met by the Head of the EUVP unit, Mr Bartiszewicz-Malicki, to having conversations that left our group talking weeks and months later – it was definitely an experience I will talk about for years to come.”

The trip Georgia experienced lasted for a packed week, with each day filled with meetings and then evenings exploring the city.

“Youth and youth work, education, the future of relations between Northern Ireland and the EU, funding, Brexit and the Northern Ireland protocol were all topics at the heart of the conversations we had.

“But it has been a big confidence boost for me. I have always been politically interested but getting actively involved always seemed out of my reach. I realised in Brussels that everyone involved in politics are all just people too. My vote, my voice matters and I can get involved to make a difference.”

““

*Definitely an experience
I will talk about for
years to come.*

Georgia Ramm



Georgia Ramm in Brussels.

AMPLIFYING THE VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE



Young people tell their stories of community connection, learning and positive change.

Over the past four years, across 33 locations throughout Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, the AMPLIFY project has influenced the lives of hundreds of young people from diverse backgrounds.

It has helped them learn how to build positive and lasting relationships with each other and gain qualifications through a 26-week development programme.

AMPLIFY is a youth work partnership among five charities from Northern Ireland and Ireland including the Northern Ireland Youth Forum, Patrician Youth Centre, Youth Work Ireland and Foróige, led by YouthAction Northern Ireland.

Over the course of the project, more than 1400 young people took part in activities ranging from dance and photography to life skills including budgeting and cooking.

As part of the legacy of the project, the AMPLIFY Storybook was created. This captured 19 individual stories from young people who had participated in the programme.

The stories demonstrate not only the diverse backgrounds of all those involved in AMPLIFY, but also the difference the project has made to their lives. It is very

clear how AMPLIFY has had a positive effect on mental health, confidence, and cultural awareness. The young people involved have gone on to further education, volunteer youth work or employment.

This storybook is a great example of how PEACE IV-funded projects such as AMPLIFY have inspired, supported and enabled young people to show courage and contribute to peacebuilding across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

Amplify participants at the project celebration.



“

Once I hear something, I always try to think about the perspectives, how the other person would feel. How is it going to affect other people?

Kate – participant of the AMPLIFY project

Discover the AMPLIFY storybook and the unique stories of 19 young people who participated in the project and the highs and lows they experienced along the way.

MATCH-FUNDING

Match funding has been provided by Department for Economy (Northern Ireland), Department of Children and Youth Affairs (Ireland).

SEUPB HOSTS LATEST PEACEPLUS PRE-APPLICATION WORKSHOP

Friday, July 8th saw the pre-application workshop hosted by the SEUPB take place at PWC headquarters in Belfast city centre.

More than 300 people gathered in person and online to discover what to expect from the upcoming PEACEPLUS programme.

The aim of all pre-development workshops is to prepare all organisations hoping to apply to PEACEPLUS funding calls for their applications.

This workshop focused on Area 1.4 of the upcoming programme – Reimagining Communities. Following an introduction from SEUPB CEO Gina McIntyre, the audience were then given an overview of PEACEPLUS by Interim Director Declan McGarrigle. The audience was then given an overview of what to expect when responding to the Reimagining Communities funding call.

Next, the audience was guided through the process for applying for funding, presented by MCA Consultants. Also a clear path for completing a Concept Note was included. The note should lay out the plan, need, partnerships and budgets intended for future application.

More information

For presentation slides, video of the pre-application workshop and full details on submitting a concept note.

More pre-application workshops are planned for later in 2022 – full details will be announced on the SEUPB website and social media channels.

“

We want to ensure organisations get as much support as possible when submitting their applications.

**Declan McGarrigle,
Interim Director PEACEPLUS**

The SEUPB would like to thank PWC for the use of their meeting space to hold this workshop. The premises demonstrate just how many uses there can be for internal spaces and we hope it gave participants on the day some inspiration.

**The key objective of
Investment Area 1.4 is to:**

Increase the number of individuals and groups regularly accessing new or reimaged shared spaces, which have been co-designed on a cross-community basis.

EU PEACEPLUS Reimagining Communities Pre-Application Support – Hybrid Workshop



Friday 8th July 2022



Microsoft Teams



CONCEPT NOTE DEADLINE

7th September 2022



seupb@mcaconsulting.ie



Seeing children experience nature at a direct level is something to be treasured.

Chris McCarney,
Biodiversity Co-ordinator

CROSS-BORDER SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME IS A BOGTASTIC SUCCESS

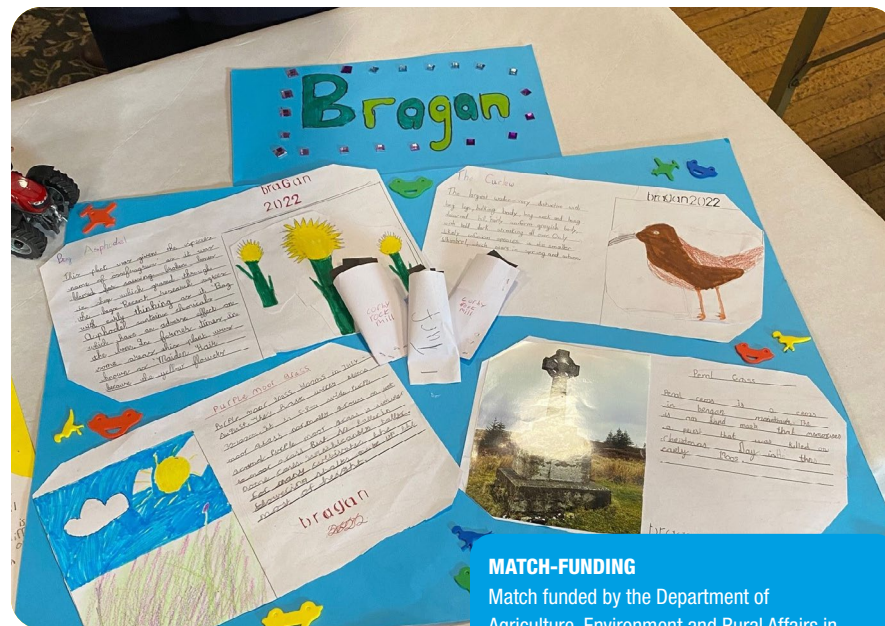
Primary school children from both sides of the border delve deep into local bog.

The wonderful poem by Seamus Heaney, 'The Tollund Man', was the basis of a fabulous schools' programme exploring the nature of Sliabh Beagh Mountain recently. Delivered by the Tydavnet Group Water Scheme, the programme saw nine schools take part in both classroom and outdoor activities to learn about the work of the CANN project on the Special Areas of Conservation north and south of the border.

The Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN) project focuses on **seven protected habitats** (such as blanket bog and raised bog) as well as **seven priority species** including birds, insects and fresh-water shellfish.

Eight Irish and one Northern Ireland primary school classes ventured onto the mountain in a series of field trips, where children were introduced to the special plants and animals that make their home on Sliabh Beagh. They also learned the valuable role of a healthy peat bog in providing their families with clean drinking water and reducing flood risk in the communities of the schools.

The children came together to create a display of photography, art, poems and science summing up their experiences on Sliabh Beagh. The artworks were on display at the Sliabh Beagh Hotel in June and local councillors met the children and had a chance to learn about the environment of the area too. The following primary and national schools all deserve special mention for their involvement with and enthusiasm for the project: St Patrick's PS, Aughadarragh; Co Tyrone; St Joseph's NS, Knockatallon; Urbleshanny NS Scotstown; Knockconan NS, Ballyosin; Deravoy NS, Carrickroe; Edenmore NS, Emyvale; St Patrick's NS, Clara, St Dymphna's NS, Tydavnet, and Corracrin NS, Emyvale.



MATCH-FUNDING

Match funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, NatureScot in Scotland and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Ireland.

MULTI-MILLION POUND HEALTH PROJECT CLOSES ON A HIGH



Transforming the lives of older people in Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Almost 7,000 older people have benefitted from the mPower project over the last five years. Shared learning experiences, social connections, and the provision of digital care solutions for both home and health were just some of the outcomes from this project which has exceeded all of its targets.

The success of mPower will also pave the way for service transformation and cross-border collaboration in the future.

The positive impact on the lives of older people however, is the most important outcome of the project.

Drogheda man Patrick MacLaughlan is in his 80s and worked with an mPower Community Navigator following his discharge from hospital.

He said: "I was living a quiet, alone life and wondering what to do next. My prime interest was to stay healthy and not go to hospital.

"Karen came along and told me about things I could do that would help me stay active for much longer, both mentally and physically.

"She worked with me to create a Wellbeing Plan that would include elements that I was interested in. I now do physio with a lady and I get regular food deliveries. I also got an Alexa device and I learned how to use video phone calls from my family. My son in Dublin can see my face and he says "yeah this guy is still ok."

The project, which involved health trusts from across Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland, was successful in empowering people aged over 65 to take control of their health and wellbeing at home. It used social prescribing and digital health technologies.

““

I do not know what I would have done without this. I might have been sliding back into a quiet time and not a lot of interest in life or activity.

Patrick, participant



MATCH-FUNDING

Match funded by the Department of Health NI, Department of Health Ireland, Scottish government.



The TIDE project has given us the unique gift of transporting ourselves back to other eras.

Ronan McConnell,
TIDE Project Officer

VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCES LAUNCH WITH TIDE

Technology allows us to be transported back in time to experience our maritime heritage.

For the International Foyle Maritime Festival in July 2022, Derry City and Strabane District council launched two virtual reality experiences.

The first enabled visitors to experience the voyage between Derry and the lights of New York. Afloat and Ashore is based on the diaries of East Wall native Patrick Maxwell, written in the 19th century. Through them viewers were transported to the old port right in the heart of the city. They could experience the voyage of a lifetime, just like so many thousands of their forebears.

Beware! Enemy Below! featured the thrilling experience of a Royal Navy Lieutenant watching over a convoy heading for Lough Foyle from the vantage point of a kite balloon. Viewers can follow the journey watching out for threats like mines and German U-boats during the First World War.

Showcased at the International Foyle Maritime Festival in July, these unique digital assets will be offered out to further partners in the Interreg Atlantic Area Programme over the coming months. These VR experiences and others created as part of the TIDE project will add an exciting new dimension to the tourism and cultural heritage of the Atlantic regions.



PEACE IV - THE IMPACT

An examination of the impact evaluation of PEACE IV.

The PEACE IV Programme, which began in 2014, is now approaching the final year, with all activities due to complete by the end of 2023. The SEUPB are currently finalising the impact evaluations on each of the four core objectives:



Shared Education



Children and Young People



Shared Spaces and Services



Building Positive Relations

A selection of PEACE IV-funded projects were included in the evaluations that have been carried out by RSM UK.

The SEUPB, with RSM UK, are planning four online sessions with the purpose of exploring the wider context the projects were operating in. Each session will be based around one of the core objectives, focusing on the results of the impact evaluations and learning more about the projects themselves.

We will hear from staff of projects funded by PEACE IV to understand their experiences of the Programme. Each session will also feature a keynote speaker with knowledge of the core objective. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions of the panel.

More information on how to join these sessions will be on the SEUPB website here [Latest Events | SEUPB](#) as well as across SEUPB social channels, in the next two weeks.

STAFF PROFILE

Declan McGarrigle



Job Title:
Interim Programme Director, PEACEPLUS

How long have you been at SEUPB and can you tell us a little about the roles you have held in the past?

I joined the organisation in 2008 and have been involved in a number of areas within the SEUPB since then. I initially worked within the Joint Secretariat managing a caseload of projects under the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes. From 2014 to 2018 I held an exciting post as the manager of the Transnational and Interregional Programmes, acting as the regional contact point in Northern Ireland for a number of EU Programmes including the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. I worked with organisations here to encourage and support them in the development of projects to increase the drawdown of EU funds to a broad range of NI partners. This was a challenging role but immensely rewarding, supporting partners in Northern Ireland to work collaboratively with other organisations across Europe to address specific challenges for NI and other regions of Europe.

My current role

My current role is Interim Director for the PEACEPLUS Programme. It is an exciting time preparing for the implementation of the Programme, highlighting the various themes and investment areas that organisations can apply for and under which they can deliver impacts around in the years ahead. There are of course many challenges ahead, including ensuring that there is sufficient engagement with groups and communities through pre-application support and that the Programme reaches all sections of society in terms of impact. The most rewarding part of the job is working with a team of passionate people focused on delivering positive outcomes for peace and reconciliations and cross-border collaboration. The Programme also provides the opportunity to work across a range of sectoral areas and engage with a wide variety of groups and individuals working on behalf of communities with the goal of creating a better region.

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).

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).

GET IN TOUCH

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