



Special EU Programmes Body  
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE  
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects

**Peace**   
Northern Ireland - Ireland  
European Regional Development Fund

# Citizens' Summary: PEACE IV Programme (2014-2020)

European Territorial Cooperation Programme Ireland-United Kingdom  
(Northern Ireland – Border Region of Ireland)



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

Co-funded by the Irish Government  
and the European Union



**Northern Ireland  
Executive**

[www.northernireland.gov.uk](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk)



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# What is the PEACE IV Programme?

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The PEACE IV Programme is a unique cross-border initiative, financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Union and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). It has been designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland<sup>1</sup>. In addition to supporting peace and reconciliation the ERDF also contributes to the promotion of social and economic stability, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities.

The first PEACE Programme was agreed in 1995 as a direct result of the EU's desire to make a positive response to the opportunities presented by developments in the Northern Ireland peace process during 1994. As the peace process has evolved and matured the PEACE Programmes have played an important role in reinforcing progress towards a more peaceful and stable society.

There has been significant progress in the region since the Good Friday/ Belfast Agreement (1998) and St Andrews Agreement (2006). However divisions between communities are still very evident with low levels of trust and high levels of residential and social segregation. Issues around the expression of identity often result in community tensions and increased polarisation. Within this context there still remains a real need for the region to address a number of key issues in order to support the overall peace process. These include more efforts to develop and deepen reconciliation between divided communities; increase tolerance and respect to reduce the levels of sectarianism and racism; promote increased community cohesion; and address the legacy of the past.

The European Parliament passed a resolution in November 2014 on the peace process that underlines the urgent need to encourage further reconciliation and help stimulate greater economic and social development across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

## What's different for 2014-2020?

In line with the Europe 2020 strategy the European Commission (EC) requires that all of the new 2014-2020 Programmes will focus on a narrow range of activities to ensure that there is sufficient funding available to bring about significant change. Successful applicants are required to demonstrate tangible results and outputs in the delivery of their projects, which must be aligned to the overall objectives, results and outputs of the Programme.

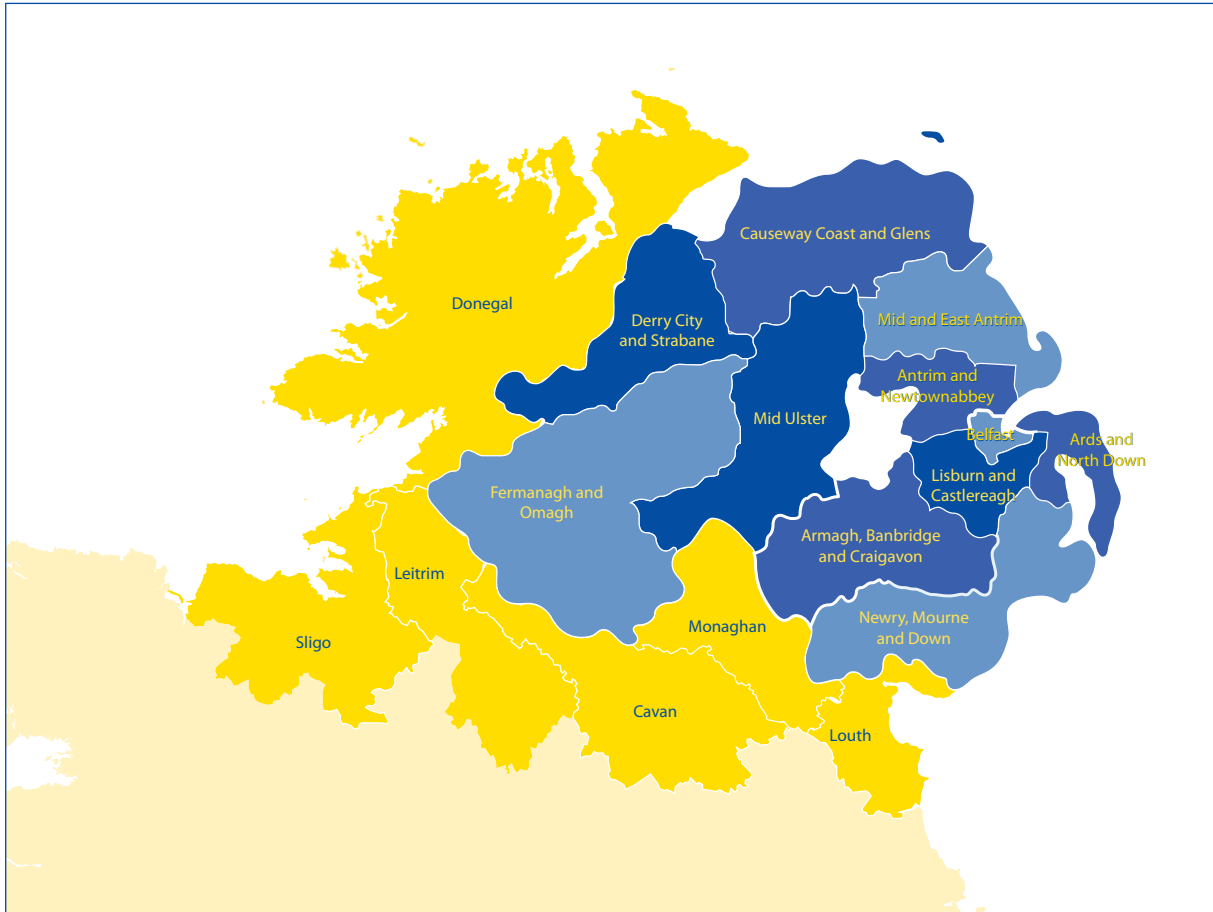
## Where does the Programme operate?

This is a cross-border Programme and all projects will be funded on a cross-border basis. The eligible area for the PEACE IV Programme for 2014-2020 is Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo).

Cross-border co-operation is encouraged within all projects seeking funding under the PEACE IV Programme. Under exceptional circumstances, up to 20% of the Programme's allocated budget can be spent outside of the eligible area, as long as tangible benefits to the eligible area can be demonstrated.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a summary of the Cooperation Programme for PEACE IV 2014-2020. The full Cooperation Programme, as agreed in November 2015, is available on the SEUPB website [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)



## How much is the Programme worth?

The ERDF contribution to the Programme is approximately **€229m** (85%). In addition €41m (15%) will come from match-funding, raising the total value of the Programme to approximately **€270m**. 6% of the total ERDF, €13.75m is allocated to Technical Assistance.

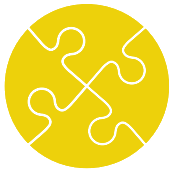
The match-funding must come from non-EU sources which may include national, regional and local government funding. Contributions in-kind may be used as match-funding. Match-funding will be provided by the relevant Government Departments in Northern Ireland and Ireland. (Further details of all match-funding available will be detailed in the specific call for applications).

# What changes will the Programme make?

## Programme Overview

The Programme has four key priority areas where it wants to make significant and lasting changes: Shared Education; Children and Young People; Shared Spaces & Services and Building Positive Relations.





## Objective: Shared Education

### Objective: Shared Education (Total Value: €35.3m / ERDF: €30m)

The current educational structures within the region have resulted in a large proportion of children being educated solely with children of a similar background. The PEACE IV Programme aims to build a culture of good relations amongst school children and equip them with the skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a society where the cycle of sectarianism and intolerance is broken. The Programme will create opportunities for school children to have sustained contact with children from another community background within the existing educational structures and deliver educational benefits to children.

This **objective** will provide direct, sustained, curriculum-based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds, through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitudes to contribute to a cohesive society.

It will **result** in an increase in the percentage of schools that have been involved in shared education with another school within the past academic year.



**Output: 350 schools involved in shared education.**



**Output: 2,100 teachers trained with the capacity to facilitate shared education.**



**Output: 144,000 participants in shared education classrooms.**

The above outputs can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- Direct and sustained contact between children of different backgrounds.
- A "whole school" approach involving teachers, classroom assistants, non-teaching staff, governors, pupils, families, wider communities, curriculum development, school policies and wider collaboration with the local community.
- The bringing together of school children at early years, primary and post primary level.
- Development and delivery of related teacher training initiatives.
- Increased opportunities for cross-border co-operation.
- Participation of schools in all sectors, including the integrated sector.
- Potential creation of collaborative partnerships to involve Further and Higher Education Colleges in Northern Ireland working with local schools to create opportunities for contact between children.
- Partnerships between schools and youth services to create opportunities for contact between children.



## Objective: Children and Young People

### Children & Young People Aged 14-24 (Total Value: €37.6m / ERDF: €32m)<sup>2</sup>

**The Programme will be outcomes focused in terms of good relations, personal development and citizenship, which will bring about a positive change in the form of clear, meaningful and sustainable 'distance travelled' for those young people who participate. It will target young people aged between 14-24 years who are disadvantaged, excluded or marginalised, have deep social and emotional needs and are at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, violence or dissident activity.**

This **objective** will enhance the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society.

It will **result** in an increase in the percentage of 16 year olds, who socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community; who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago; and who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years' time. These result indicators will be monitored from information collected by the Northern Ireland Life and Times survey.



**Output: Phase One - 3,400 young people aged 14-24 years who are most marginalised and disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity. Phase Two will target 4,000 young people (rising to 6,600 if the additional €10.5m ERDF is allocated).<sup>2</sup>**

The above outputs can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- Delivered within Northern Ireland on a shared basis which gives young people opportunities for sustained, purposeful interaction with others from a different background;
- Delivered on a cross-border basis, creating opportunities for contact between young people in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland;
- Intervention for young people will generally last between six and nine months and will be of sufficient intensity to ensure the experience is transformative;
- Utilising a professional youth development approach, delivered to an agreed set of standards by suitably skilled professionals;
- Shared youth programmes focused on good relations, citizenship and personal development, which may include; sport; drama; culture; language; entrepreneurial and volunteering activities; residential training activities; peer mentoring;
- Support for a mentoring model, where each participant has access to a personal mentor;
- Professional training for youth development practitioners, including cross-border professional development programmes to facilitate the transfer of knowledge, skills and experience.

All participants in the funded projects will be tracked for at least one year after leaving the Programme. The Objective has a two phase allocation of €32m ERDF. (Phase One is €14.45m and Phase Two is €17.55m).

<sup>2</sup> Consideration will be given to a further allocation of funding in 2018, following an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the delivery of Phase One and agreed by the Monitoring Committee.



## Objective: Children and Young People

### Children & Young People Aged 0-24 (Total Value: €17.1m / ERDF: €14.5m)<sup>3</sup>

The Programme will invest in children and young people so that they can reach their potential and maximise their contribution to a more cohesive society. It will bring about change in the form of clear, meaningful and sustainable 'distance travelled' for individual young people in terms of good relations, personal development and citizenship. This component of the PEACE IV Programme will form part of the Local Authority Action Plans.

This **objective** will enhance the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society.

It will **result** in an increase in the percentage of 16 year olds; who socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community; who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago; and who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years' time. These result indicators will be monitored from information collected by the Northern Ireland Life and Times survey.



**Output: Phase One - 21,000 participants aged 0-24 years completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity. Following the completion of Phase One further consideration will be given to an additional financial allocation to this action and corresponding outputs in 2018. Phase Two will target 15,000 participants aged 0-24 years.**

The above outputs can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

For projects with participants aged 0-24 years:

- Inclusive local community youth initiatives involving sport, arts, culture, language and the environment that promote positive relations through addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance;
- Age appropriate actions that address sectarianism and racism;
- Youth centred initiatives that address anti-social behaviour;
- Creation of opportunities for young people from different traditions, cultural backgrounds or political opinions to meet and develop positive relationships;
- Youth leadership and citizenship programmes that build capacity for a shared society;
- Short-term diversionary activities at times of high community tension, such as residential or sporting activity, where these form part of a longer-term relationship-building programme.

<sup>3</sup> The objective will have a two phase allocation. (Phase One will have an allocation of €14.5m with an allocation of €10.5m for Phase Two, depending upon the outcome of the 14-24 year Phase One evaluation), as detailed on P5.





## Objective: Shared Space and Services

### Capital Development to create new Shared Spaces (Total Value: €52.9m / ERDF: €45m)

**One of the visible aspects of the conflict is the high level of segregation which still exist within society. This is evidenced by residential segregation, peace walls, sectarian graffiti, and public displays of flags and emblems to mark out territory and intimidate. Segregation increases social division and tension and also inhibits economic development and the efficient delivery of public services.**

The Programme will create new shared civic spaces that will be used by all sections of the community; this will involve changes in both attitudes and behaviour with a corresponding reduction in segregation. Projects will be of a sufficient scale to have a transformative effect on local areas, as well as having a regional significance. Projects will incorporate high quality design and sustainable development principles, including measures to minimise carbon emissions.

This **objective** will create a more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services.

It will **result** in an increase in the percentage of people who would define the neighbourhood where they live as neutral; an increase in the percentage of people who prefer to live in a mixed religion environment; and a reduction in the percentage of people who would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion. These result indicators will be monitored from information collected by the Northern Ireland Life and Times survey.



#### **Output: Eight capital developments to create new shared spaces.**

The above output can be achieved through the following indicative action:

- New buildings and spaces with a transformative effect on local areas.



## Objective: Shared Space and Services

### Local Authority Shared Spaces Projects (Total Value: €28.8m / ERDF: €24.5m)

The Programme will support a number of local initiatives with the aim of making public spaces in cities, towns and villages more inclusive; this will often involve addressing sensitive topics around parades, flags, emblems, graffiti and other issues which can serve to intimidate and make some members of society, whether based on religion, race or other factors, feel unwelcome in some areas.

Support will be provided to manage and develop existing shared space in a manner that respects the rights, equality and diversity of all. This will involve changes in both attitudes and behaviour with a corresponding reduction in segregation.

In some cases, supported activities may include managing dialogue, reconciliation and capacity building between interface communities; leading to the creation of a shared vision and conditions where communities feel that it is safe and appropriate to proceed with the removal of interface barriers in their area.

This **objective** will create a more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services.

It will **result** in an increase in the percentage of people who would define the neighbourhood where they live as neutral; an increase in the percentage of people who prefer to live in a mixed religion environment; and a reduction in the percentage of people who would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion. These result indicators will be monitored from information collected by the Northern Ireland Life and Times survey.



**Output: 17 local initiatives that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings.**

The above output can be achieved through the following indicative action:

- Developing the shared aspect of existing neighbourhoods, public spaces and buildings.



## Objective: Shared Space and Services

### Victims & Survivors (Total Value: €17.6m / ERDF: €15m)

**In recognition of the need and demand of those who have suffered from the trauma of the conflict, the Programme will develop the capacity for services to meet the needs of victims and survivors.<sup>4</sup>**

The Belfast/Good Friday Agreement indicated the need to acknowledge the suffering of victims and survivors and to provide services that are supportive and sensitive with a role for statutory and community based organisations. The recent Stormont House Agreement also provided further context in terms of the legacy provisions needed, alongside meeting health and well-being needs.

The PEACE IV Programme will add value by investing in cross-border health and well-being services that develop proven expertise within the region and increase the capacity and the quality of care in the sector for victims and survivors and their families. This will complement other work being taken forward by others to deliver on the commitments for victims and survivors.

This **objective** will create a more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services.

To ensure the coordination of services, on a cross-border basis, the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) will be the single lead partner for this part of the Programme.



**Output: 6,300 individuals in receipt of advocacy support.**



**Output: 11,350 individuals in receipt of assessment, case work support and resilience support.**

The above outputs can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- Advocacy support to include practical support for victims and survivors engaging with institutions, historical process and enquiries;
- Development of qualified assessors, health and well-being case workers to identify and address the needs of victims and survivors;
- A resilience programme to address the individual needs of victims and survivors, including level one and level two mental health interventions;
- Development of the capacity of the sector through training and development (to meet national and regional standards), research and improved regulation.

<sup>4</sup> The targeting of victims and survivors for these services will be based on the statutory definition of a victims and survivor provided by the Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.



## Objective: Building Positive Relations at a Local Level

### Local Authority Action Plans (Total Value: €35.3m / ERDF €30m)

There are continued high levels of sectarianism and racism in society. Increasing levels of ethnic diversity, alongside relatively high levels of socio-economic deprivation in some areas presents new challenges for achieving greater integration and citizenship. Due to the history of division in Northern Ireland and the Border Region, some sections of society have not yet developed the capacity to deal positively with diversity and difference. Local authority led partnerships will be supported under the Programme, involving effective partnerships between the public, private and community sectors, with the capacity to address reconciliation, cultural diversity, conflict transformation and equality.

All projects will involve people from diverse backgrounds; in particular, cross-border activity will be supported and facilitated. The Programme will support actions to facilitate the full participation of women in local initiatives and also target those groups particularly impacted by the legacy of the troubles/conflict such as victims and survivors and those communities with low social capital, and those identifiable groups and networks dealing with specific legacy issues such as young and older people, women, the faith community, victims and survivors, those suffering from physical or mental disability arising from the legacy of violence, ex-prisoners, displaced persons and former members of the security forces.

This **objective** will promote positive relations characterised by respect, where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

It will **result** in an increase in the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago; an increase in the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years' time and an increase in the percentage of people who know quite a bit about the culture of some minority ethnic communities. These result indicators will be monitored from information collected by the Northern Ireland Life and Times survey.



**Output: 17 local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities.**

The above output can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- Conflict resolution and mediation at a local level;
- Events linked to the decade of commemorations that explore history in a sensitive manner and build mutual understanding;
- Sport, arts, culture (including Irish and Ulster Scots language) and environment projects that promote positive relations through addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance;
- Projects to facilitate personal interaction between residents and groups from divided neighbourhoods.



## Objective: Building Positive Relations at a Local Level

### Regional Level Projects (Total Value: €16.4m / ERDF: €13.9m)

**Some issues and target groups can be better accommodated through regional level initiatives that transcend local authority boundaries. These regional initiatives will also facilitate cross-border co-operation. The Programme will pay particular attention to minority groups and groups who traditionally have been marginalised in society so that opportunities will be created that allow for a greater degree of participation in society.**

The Programme will support groups particularly impacted by the by the legacy of the conflict such as victims and survivors and those communities with low social capital as well as those identifiable groups and networks dealing with specific legacy issues such as young and older people, women, the faith community, those suffering from physical or mental disability arising from the legacy of violence, ex-prisoners, displaced persons and former members of the security forces.

In all cases, projects will be inclusive in nature and will ensure meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between people of different backgrounds, and which have the capacity to change attitudes and behaviour. Initiatives should evidence a direct commitment to tackling real and complex issues, such as sectarianism and racism.

This **objective** will promote positive relations characterised by respect, where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

It will **result** in an increase in the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago; an increase in the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years' time and an increase in the percentage of people who know quite a bit about the culture of some minority ethnic communities. These result indicators will be monitored from information collected by the Northern Ireland Life and Times survey.



**Output: 20 regional level projects that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities.**

The above output can be achieved through the following indicative actions:

- Projects to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society through the promotion of reconciliation amongst all communities;
- Projects which build, improve and sustain relationships between communities by addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance.

# What kind of projects will be supported?

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## Who decided what the priorities would be for the new Programme?

The content of the Programme was informed by two public consultations held in 2012 and 2014, a socio-economic profile of the region and extensive consultation with the Government Departments and agencies in Northern Ireland and Ireland. The development of the Programme has also been informed by the European Union's key policy instruments, namely the Europe 2020 Strategy (EU2020), the Common Strategic Framework and the European Commission's position papers on the UK and Ireland. Its content has been agreed by the Northern Ireland Executive, the Irish Government and the European Commission.

## Who can apply for funding?

Subject to eligibility checks, applications can be submitted from a wide range of organisations including: Local Authorities; Public Sector Bodies; Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations. (This list is not exhaustive).

## How can I learn about funding opportunities?

Different funding calls will be open at different times throughout the new programming period. Full details of all funding calls will be advertised on the SEUPB's website ([www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)), Twitter account (@SEUPB) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/SpecialEUProgrammesBody](http://www.facebook.com/SpecialEUProgrammesBody)). A regularly updated list of all successfully funded projects will also be available on the SEUPB's website.

## What criteria will be used to assess applications?

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide full and detailed information in line with the guidance provided at the outset of each stage of the application process. The following criteria, detailed below, will be used to assess all applications:

- The **results** and **outputs** of any application must be in line with the objectives, results and outputs of the Programme. (These will be detailed in the call for applications);
- Applications must clearly demonstrate **cross-community** and/or **cross-border cooperation**;
- Applicants must be able to show evidence of **good corporate governance** and partnership arrangements;
- Applications must have a **high quality of project design** in terms of pre-planning, implementation and performance monitoring;
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate that their project represents **strong value for money**;
- The project must contribute to **sustainable development and equality**.

# How are projects assessed?

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A two stage process will be used to determine the success of any application. Stage one will be a short application form with applicants receiving a decision on whether or not they can move to stage two. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide full and detailed information in line with the guidance provided at the outset of each stage of the application process.

Stage two of the process will include the submission of a detailed Business Plan which will provide more detail on the application and will be subject to a robust appraisal. Except in duly justified cases, the overall assessment period is 36 weeks, including the issuing of a Letter of Offer to the applicant. If the 36 week assessment period is not achieved for any application, a rationale will be provided on the SEUPB's website. All applications will be scored. The scoring criteria will be published with each call for applications.

The Programme Monitoring Committee has delegated responsibility to a Steering Committee which will make the final decision on whether or not funding is awarded. Calls for applications will have a high degree of focus and will detail the results from projects as well as the total outputs required and total financial allocation of each call. A calendar of fixed Steering Committee dates will be published at the time of the call which will provide transparency on the targets for processing times. The decision-making procedures and criteria will be very clearly set out in the terms of reference of each call.



# How have we simplified the new programmes for 2014-2020?

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In response to feedback from previous applicants and to opportunities presented in the new regulations, there is a renewed focus on simplification within the PEACE IV Programme. As such, a number of measures have been introduced to help reduce the level of bureaucracy associated with the Programme:

- **Harmonisation of rules:** A single set of Programme Rules will be applied throughout the Programme area. These rules will reflect the minimum actions required to meet EU regulations and national procedures. The rules are also harmonised with those for the new INTERREG VA Programme for 2014-2020.
- **Project duration:** The duration of the project can be up to seven years, depending on the nature of the activities being proposed. Where a project is over three years in duration, the second phase of the project will be conditional on a rigorous mid-term evaluation. It is not anticipated that project activities will be funded beyond 2021.
- **Letter of Offer conditions:** Additional conditions in a Letter of Offer will be reduced to the minimum required and will not replicate those contained within Programme Rules or standard conditions of grant.
- **Monitoring:** The number of indicators within a Letter of Offer will reflect the result and output focus of the Programme. It is a regulatory requirement that monitoring of indicators will be completed in a manner compliant with e-cohesion.
- **Budget structure:** A simplified budget structure will be used within the Letter of Offer. This will increase the operational flexibility of Lead Partners in the delivery of projects without the requirement to seek approval for changes to sub-budget lines.



## How have we simplified the new programmes for 2014-2020? continued

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- **Simplified costs:** The Programme will proactively promote and implement simplified costs. All relevant projects will avail of a flat rate for overheads. Where there is a suitable basis for unit costs, this methodology will be mandatory. Detailed information on simplified costs will be included in the calls for application.
- **Lead Partners:** Local authority and other Lead Partners which are engaging with a large number of final recipients will be required to state how they are reducing the administrative burden for final recipients. Local authorities will be required to use unit costs, flat rates, lump sums or resource allocation models to reduce the administrative burden for final recipients.
- **Verification:** Risk-based sampling methodology will be used by the Financial Control Unit in carrying out its administrative checks. An increased use of unit costs and outputs will significantly reduce the level of verification. During verification, increased emphasis will be placed on the achievement of key milestones, outputs and results.
- **E-Cohesion:** The Programme will embrace the principles of e-cohesion. Applicants will have the ability to apply for funding online. Lead Partners will be required to provide up-to-date monitoring and financial information online.



# How does the Programme apply the Horizontal Principles?

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## Sustainable Development

The Programme has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment to ensure that it supports activity that will promote sustainable development. Projects must demonstrate how they will minimise any adverse impact they may have on the environment.

All projects in all themes must comply with the Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted by the European Council in June 2006, as well as the respective national Sustainable Development Strategy within each jurisdiction. As part of the assessment of applications, consideration will be given to the project's adherence to the principles and objectives of sustainable development. Where deemed appropriate, Environmental Impact Assessments will be made.

## Equal Opportunities

The Programme shall ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of gender perspective is taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation and implementation of the Programme as well as in its monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

The Programme shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during its preparation and implementation. In particular, accessibility for persons with disabilities shall be taken into account throughout the preparation and implementation of the Programme.

In accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Employment Equality Act (1998) and the Equal Status Act (2000), as amended by the Equality Act (2004) in Ireland, projects part-funded by the Programme shall comply with and, where appropriate, contribute to Community policy and legislation on equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

The Programme has been subject to equality screening in accordance with relevant legislation and the SEUPB's equality policy. This screening concluded that there were major positive impacts across four of the nine Section 75 grounds (religious belief; political opinion; race/ethnic origin; and age); neutral impacts upon sexual orientation and marital status; and minor impacts on three grounds (gender, disability and dependency). These were all regarded as impacts that would help to promote equality of opportunity and good relations, hence the Programme should not be subject to a further Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA).

Project applicants will be required to include a statement of the likely equality impact of their project in their application and to identify any differential impacts.

# How is the Programme managed?

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The SEUPB is the Managing Authority, Joint Secretariat, Certifying Authority and Financial Control Unit for the PEACE IV Programme and as such is responsible to the European Commission, the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC), The Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland.

The **Managing Authority** has overall responsibility for the monitoring and evaluation of the Programme. It chairs and provides overall administration support for the Programme Monitoring Committee.

The **Joint Secretariat** is responsible for providing information on funding opportunities. It also prepares project assessments which are presented to the Steering Committee for their final decision. It shall assist Lead Partners in the implementation of their projects.

The **Certifying Authority** certifies all expenditure claims submitted to the EC as well as controlling the Programme's cash flow and making payments to Lead Partners.

The **Financial Control Unit** is responsible for verifying the legality and regularity of all expenditure incurred. It conducts pre-contracting checks on each Lead Partner and carries out administrative verifications of claims made by a project.

The independent **Steering Committee** has been delegated responsibility by the Programme Monitoring Committee to select projects to be funded. Its decision is final.



# How is the Programme monitored?

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A Monitoring Committee is established under European Regulation for the PEACE IV Programme to monitor the effectiveness and quality of the Programme.

The membership of the Monitoring Committee comprises of representatives of the Member States, local and regional government, as well as social and economic partners representing business, trade unions, and the voluntary, environmental and equality sectors. A full list of the Committee members, along with the papers and minutes of all committee meetings, is available on the SEUPB's website.

The Committee fulfils a number of key responsibilities:

- It must approve the project selection criteria to be used in the Programme;
- It must review progress toward achieving the targets of the Programme and examine the impact of its implementation;
- It will consider and approve formal reports submitted to the EC, including Annual Reports on Implementation;
- It will consider and approve any proposal to amend the Commission decision which approved the Programme.

**Further information on the PEACE IV Programme for 2014-2020, including the full Cooperation Programme document is available at [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)**



# Notes

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