

The PEACE PLUS Programme- Community & Voluntary Sector

The PEACE PLUS Programme is a €1bn investment in the social, economic and environmental development of Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

Building upon the success of previous cross border PEACE and INTERREG Programmes, it will contribute to a more peaceful, prosperous and stable society, leaving a lasting legacy across the Programme area. This will be achieved by funding activities that promote peace and reconciliation across six themes, which encompass 21 individual investment areas as outlined below. These have been developed to optimise engagement and participation across all ages, communities and sectors.



A public consultation regarding the potential PEACE PLUS Programme design was held in 2019-20. In response to the views expressed, the SEUPB has developed the Programme to ensure multiple opportunities for engagement by **the Community & Voluntary Sector**. These include dedicated measures for the Community & Voluntary Sector (Theme 1). PEACE PLUS also includes other areas, which although not exclusively for community and voluntary sector organisations, will provide significant opportunities for sectoral involvement (Themes 2- 6) as outlined below.

We now look forward to receiving your views on the investment areas proposed as part of the Statutory Public Consultation process, and wish to outline all the areas across the Programme which may provide opportunity for you to get involved, and initiate the preparation of potential projects.

Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities

The Community & Voluntary sector has a vital role to play in the creation of a more peaceful and prosperous society. Hence, this Theme is entirely focused upon investment in Community & Voluntary Sector led peace and reconciliation initiatives. To facilitate maximum engagement by Community & Voluntary Sector organisations of all scales across the entire Programme area, there are four distinct, as outlined below

1.1 Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plans (€90m)

This investment area will see the creation of Local PEACE PLUS Partnerships across all parts of the Programme area, which will develop Co-designed PEACE Action Plans. These plans must be co-designed with the local community, a process which the SEUPB will support. This structure will enable and empower council led local community partnerships, to self-determine and deliver priority projects on a cross community basis. It will provide opportunities to develop local projects, with many being delivered by Community & Voluntary Sector organisations. These will span a range of areas including: children and young people; health and wellbeing; community regeneration; education and skills; social innovation and social enterprise.

1.2 Empowering Communities (€30m)	<p>This investment area will support the delivery of people-to-people projects by local Community & Voluntary Sector organisations. Through the provision of a small grants programme, it will enable participation by smaller organisations who can often be best placed to affect real change and embed peace at local community level. Projects can use any medium which will result in improved cross community relations. Projects will facilitate collaborative approaches by the statutory, community and voluntary sectors, designed to address anti-social behaviours which undermine peace and reconciliation. In this way, the Programme will contribute to the creation of strengthened and more cohesive local communities.</p>
1.3 Building Positive Relations (€30m)	<p>This investment area will provide support for projects which transcend local boundaries and have the potential to achieve significant peace and reconciliation across the Programme area. It will present opportunities for Community & Voluntary Sector organisations with the capacity to deliver large, strategic peace and reconciliation projects.</p>
1.4 Re-Imaging Communities (€60m)	<p>This investment area will offer the potential to develop new and transform existing spaces into shared environments for use by all communities. It will provide Community & Voluntary Sector organisations with the opportunity to develop and manage innovative spaces which contribute to improved peace and reconciliation. These shared spaces will span a range of thematic areas including: children and young people; health and wellbeing; social enterprise, education; arts and culture; tourism and heritage; and sport and recreation.</p>

Other Opportunities for the Community & Sector to Engage in PEACE PLUS

Theme 2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation	
2.3 Programme Area Skills Development (€35m)	<p>This investment area will support area-based approaches to address emerging skills requirements, including those within the Community & Voluntary Sector, with a particular focus on peace and reconciliation.</p>
2.4 Smart Towns and Villages (€30m)	<p>This investment area will support stakeholders including the Community & Voluntary Sector to lead the transformation of vacant spaces within town and village centres for communal recreational and social usage. It will support social enterprise / innovation led projects designed to apply advanced ICT to create new models of social service and economic development across the Programme area, with a particular focus on rural areas.</p>
Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People	
3.1 Shared Learning Together Programme (€45m)	<p>This investment area will be a further development of the PEACE IV cross community and cross border school partnership model. It will provide increased opportunity for Community & Voluntary Sector involvement through the incorporation of non-curricular youth to youth cross community and cross border projects. It will also encompass youth worker collaboration and development.</p>

3.2 PEACE PLUS Youth Programme (€45m)	<p>This investment area will build the capacity of marginalised and disadvantaged young people within the Programme area, while enhancing their employability. Supported projects will incorporate the ‘one good adult’ approach. It will provide opportunities for those Community & Voluntary Sector organisations with expertise in working with young people to develop and deliver related projects.</p>
3.3 Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing (€20m)	<p>This investment area will increase the number of resilient young people within the Programme area, with the capacity to be in control of their own lives and make a positive contribution within their communities. It will focus on the social, emotional and environmental wellbeing of young people. An emphasis upon additional, non-formal approaches will create opportunities for Community & Voluntary sector organisations to develop innovative and impactful projects, which will improve the lives of young people across the Programme area.</p>
Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities	
4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care (€80m)	<p>This investment area will support the development of additional, innovative community-based health care interventions, which complement statutory provision (including social enterprise models). As such, it will present opportunities for suitably experienced Community & Voluntary Sector organisations with the opportunity to develop and deliver innovative cross community and cross border health care projects in communities across the Programme area.</p>
4.2 Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion (€50m)	<p>This investment area will fund a range of initiatives designed to redress social isolation, which can be prevalent amongst people of all ages within rural areas. It will support social, economic and environmental projects, which contribute to the creation of healthy communities in rural areas. This will include increased delivery of family and community services, and the development of social enterprise programmes focused on health and wellbeing. As such, it will provide a range of opportunities for involvement by rural Community & Voluntary Sector organisations.</p>
Theme 5: Supporting a Sustainable and Better Connected Future	
5.1 Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience (€15m)	<p>The investment areas will focus on environmental challenges and nature protection. However, this Theme will include education initiatives and activities, which enable local communities to address climate change, so providing opportunities for Community & Voluntary Sector organisations to get involved in climate action initiatives.</p>
Theme 6: Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration	
6.2 Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens (€20m)	<p>This investment will finance smaller projects that forge and maintain social and civic cohesion on a cross border basis. It will provide opportunities for cross border initiatives led by Community & Voluntary Sector organisations.</p>

