



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

Section 75 Policy Screening Form

Part 1: Policy Scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy or policy area. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step-by-step basis.

You should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

Information about the policy

Name of the policy or policy area:

PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME:

European Territorial Co-operation 2021–2027

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy/policy area?

Existing	Revised	New
		X

Brief Description

The cohesion policy (or regional policy) of the European Union provides a framework for financing a wide range of projects and investments with the aim of encouraging economic growth in EU Member States, their regions, and third countries. The policy is reviewed by the EU institutions once every seven years with the next round of programmes covering the period 2021-2027.

In the 2014-2020 period, the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has managed two cross-border cooperation programmes: the PEACE IV programme (total budget: €270 million) in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland¹ ; and the INTERREG VA programme (total budget: €283 million) which includes the same area plus the west of Scotland.²

At the present time, and based on regulations that have been published in draft form, the SEUPB has commenced the preparation of a single successor programme for the period 2021 to 2027. This new programme is called PEACE PLUS³.

PEACE PLUS, with the support of the European Regional Development Fund, will be a new cross-border EU funding programme for the 2021-2027 period, and will succeed both of the current 2014-2020 PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes. This new programme represents an opportunity to continue to fund peace building interventions along with activities which help to make the programme area more prosperous and healthier through funding areas of mutual interest on a cross-border basis.

PEACE PLUS is developed in the framework of the seven Policy Objectives as set out in the draft EU regulations (see Appendix 1):

- Policy Objective 1: A More Competitive and Smarter Europe
- Policy Objective 2: A Greener, Low Carbon Transitioning Towards a Net Zero Carbon Economy and Resilient Europe
- Policy Objective 3: A More Connected Europe
- Policy Objective 4: A More Social and Inclusive Europe
- Policy Objective 5: A Europe Closer to Its Citizens
- Interreg Specific Objective 1: A Better Cooperation Governance
- Interreg Specific Objective 2: A Safer and More Secure Europe

¹ including Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo

² For examples of projects funded under these programmes go to: <https://seupb.eu/case-studies> or <https://seupb.eu/iva-%26-piv-how-is-the-funding-making-a-difference>

³ It is anticipated that the new programme may have the approximate value of the current two programmes combined, although this has yet to be confirmed.

The Programme will fund peace and reconciliation activities which fall under Policy Objective 4 (as previously addressed under successive PEACE Programmes).

PEACE PLUS will also support the wider economic, social and environmental development of the programme area, supporting cross border collaboration and partnership to address territorial challenges (previously addressed under the INTERREG Programme). To achieve this wider development, the programme will select priorities from the seven Policy Objectives (as above). All these activities will also contribute to peace building.

The PEACE PLUS Programme (2021-2027) has been developed with due regard to the findings of the stakeholder engagement process held during 2019-2020, together with the socio-economic review of the programme area, a Border Orientation Paper, a North-South joint departmental engagement process, objectives in the programme area and the requirements of the EU regulations (see *Available Evidence*, p.13).

Core criteria for the selection of thematic areas under the programme are noted below, specifically the Programme's strategy should be:

- **Relevant** – The challenges expressed during consultation and the socio-economic needs of the region are being met through the Programme.
- **Coherent** - The Programme avoids overlaps with other interventions but also the scope to address synergies and links with not just EU but also domestic policies.
- **Add Value** - The specific role of the PEACE PLUS Programme, as opposed to other forms of EU or government funding, is highlighted as it will provide a space for cross border collaboration in a wide range of areas as set out in the thematic papers.
- **Effective and Efficient** – Each of the themes and investments areas are linked to output indicators with clear objectives and results.

From this programme of work, and set against these criteria, six themes with associated objectives and action plans will form the basis of PEACE PLUS. Each theme comprises a number of Investment Areas with attached objectives (see Appendix 2). In summary, these are:

Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities

Investment Area 1: Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans

Investment Area 2: Empowering Communities

Investment Area 3: Building Positive Relations

Investment Area 4: Re-Imaging Communities

Theme 2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation

Investment Area 1: SME Development and Transition

Investment Area 2: Innovation Challenge Fund

Investment Area 3: Programme Area Skills Development

Investment Area 4: Smart Towns and Villages

Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People

Investment Area 1: Shared Learning Together Programme

Investment Area 2: PEACE PLUS Youth Programme

Investment Area 3: Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing

Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities

Investment Area 1: Collaborative Health and Social Care

Investment Area 2: Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion

Investment Area 3: Victim and Survivors

Theme 5: Supporting a Sustainable Future and Better Connected Future

Investment Area 1: Biodiversity, Nature Recovery & Resilience

Investment Area 2: Marine and Coastal Management

Investment Area 3: Water Quality and Catchment Management

Investment Area 4: Water Quality Improvement Programme

Investment Area 5: Geothermal Energy Demonstration Programme

Investment Area 6: Enhanced Sustainable Travel Connectivity

Theme 6: Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration

Investment Area 1: Strategic Planning and Engagement

Investment Area 2: Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens

Programme budget

Provision has been made for a budget of approximately €1bn, including proposals from the EU budget, the Government of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive and the U.K. Government.

	Indicative budget €
Theme 1: Building Peaceful & Thriving Communities	€ 210,000,000
Theme 2: Delivering Economic Development & Transition	€ 143,000,000
Theme 3: Empowering & Investing in Our Young People	€ 110,000,000
Theme 4: Healthy & Inclusive Communities	€ 155,000,000
Theme 5: Supporting a Sustainable Future and Better Connected Future	€ 265,000,000
Theme 6: Building & Embedding Partnership & Collaboration	€ 47,000,000

Programme area

The core area that the benefits of the PEACE PLUS Programme funding will focus on includes Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo).

Programme Legacy

Each thematic area of the Programme includes a strong community-led focus, leading to a more prosperous and 'healthy' society. The SEUPB has developed the Programme on the basis of actions and initiatives which support, develop, enable and engage communities throughout the programme area. The PEACE PLUS Programme will require ongoing meaningful community

engagement and in particular with statutory agencies to consider new innovative approaches to the delivery of essential services at a local level.

From the outset, the SEUPB has championed the need for the Programme themes and indeed structure to encompass civil society at all levels in relation to the development and implementation of actions and initiatives to address societal and community challenges.

The Programme will focus on those communities and organisations best placed to deliver real and lasting impacts across the programme area and critically within communities and groups that have been most affected by the legacy of the troubles/conflict. Communities will be encouraged to take pride in their culture, customs and heritage through initiatives funded by the Programme.

The Programme will continue to empower communities to work together, cementing relationships through initiatives which sustain peace and leave a legacy of friendship and understanding. This will include engaging with those who are most marginalised in society in order for them to become more involved in improving and regenerating their physical and social environment.

Investment in young people will provide opportunities to improve their life chances, skills, education, confidence, creativity and sporting acumen, also encouraging social entrepreneurship. The Programme will also focus on enhancing community leadership and ensuring that a new generation of leaders are appropriately skilled to deal with the challenges of sustaining peace and building good relations.

A renewed focus will fall on rural and border communities in particular through initiatives which will support regeneration and reimagining of rural areas which have been most affected from a lack of investment for decades, and that suffer because of geographic isolation and a lack of opportunity and access to services. Rural and border areas that have been left behind, suffering population decline and likely to feel the most negative effects of Brexit, have been considered, and actions will be supported to encourage cross border activity for the mutual benefit of all citizens and the local economy, in particular set against the socio-economic uncertainties created by COVID-19.

The delivery of iconic spaces through the Programme by revitalising existing space and by creating new and vibrant public realms in our cities, towns and villages will leave a lasting and shared legacy within the programme area.

The legacy will be a contribution to sustaining a peaceful and shared society, something which previous Programmes have contributed to since 1995. However, now more than ever, the Programme will place legacy at its core in order to respond to the long-term challenges that the programme area faces.

Programme delivery considerations

At the present time, SEUPB is reviewing current processes with the view to reducing the administrative burden for programme bodies and partners. All new processes aspire to make the programme more accessible to potential applicants, and include the following:

Costing Options

The SEUPB already promotes the use of simplified cost options⁴ (flat rates, unit costs and lump sums) within the current programmes and wishes to extend their use in PEACE PLUS. For project partners, hopefully this will reduce the administrative burden and reduce error rates. The aim of simplifying the costing options is to enable partners to devote more attention to quality of outputs.

Project Development Support

For the current programmes, support to potential applicants is available in a number of forms, including through the SEUPB website and through events promoting calls for funding. The SEUPB will consider other ways of providing project development support during the new programming period. Examples of additional support could be:

- Expert assistance supporting project development;
- A wider suite of events, including networking events and project development workshops;
- Additional materials published online, including manuals and instruction videos;
- Special support for those whose first language may not be English, or who may have literacy problems more generally;
- Lump sum payments for preparation costs.

Funding Rate

For projects funded under PEACE IV and INTERREG VA, projects were commonly funded up to 100% of project costs. However, there were also a number of projects that included a contribution from partners, where they were capable of doing so. In the PEACE PLUS programme the SEUPB will continue to explore arrangements where partners contribute some or all of their match-funding if they are in a position to do so, while recognising that access to potential partners may be more limited for marginalised communities (e.g. BAME; Irish Travellers).

⁴ Simplified cost options include flat rates, unit costs and lump sums. In the current PEACE IV and INTERREG VA programmes flat rates and unit costs were used.

Single Jurisdiction Partnerships

PEACE PLUS is a cross-border programme. However, single jurisdiction partnerships (i.e. project partnerships involving organisations from a single country) will continue to be eligible for funding provided they meet the recognised objectives. Projects addressing wider economic and territorial development challenges (as previously funded under INTERREG VA) will need to involve cross-border partnerships and beneficiaries.

What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims and outcomes)

Building on the successes of earlier initiatives, including PEACE IV and INTERREG VA, PEACE PLUS is designed as an integrated programme to contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland. The programme aims to achieve this by funding not only peace and reconciliation activities but also initiatives that contribute to North/South cross-border economic and territorial development.

The overarching aim of the Programme is to leave a lasting legacy through actions that exploit the opportunities, and address the needs, arising from the peace process in order to boost economic growth and stimulate social and economic regeneration and promote social inclusion, particularly for those at the margins of economic and social life.

The Programme will provide funding to support efforts to inspire, equip and connect people and communities in order to establish sustainable healthy cross community and cross border relationships across a range of sectors. It aims to empower communities, private and public sector organisations and government / statutory bodies to work together, cementing relationships through initiatives which sustain peace, build both prosperity and an inclusive healthy sustainable environment, leaving a legacy of friendship and understanding.

In this way the Programme will help to address longstanding social and economic challenges which continue to impact on communities, particularly those in rural border areas, while recognising the ongoing challenges that exist in urban settings throughout the region, and the devastating impact of COVID-19 on society. It will also respond to the European Green Deal objectives by ensuring that sustainable development is at the core of the interventions across the Programme.

Specific objectives attached to seven overarching EU Policy Objectives are set out in the draft EU regulations (see Appendix 1), and these will form the basis of the PEACE PLUS funding programme.

Under these overarching policies, the six PEACE PLUS themes each have specific objectives attaching to the various Investment Areas linked to specific Themes. (These objectives are set out in Appendix 2.)

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

YES	NO	N/A
X		

If YES, explain how.

The PEACE PLUS programme will continue to build on the work of previous programmes between the border counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

In the case of PEACE PLUS, where it is acting in support of peace and reconciliation, the ERDF, as a specific objective under Policy Objective 4, shall also contribute to promoting social, economic and regional stability in the programme area, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities. This contribution will be bi-directional as cross border cooperation goals will also impact on peace and reconciliation.

In general, the content of the Programme has been inspired through community engagement, and supporting actions that foster community innovation and regeneration. This includes engaging with those citizens that are most marginalised in society so as promote their involvement in improving the physical and social environment. Support will be provided to assist in tackling the barriers faced by specific groups including underprivileged communities, BAME communities, disabled persons and women accessing education and business.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The cohesion policy of the European Union provides a framework for financing a wide range of projects and investments with the aim of encouraging economic growth in EU Member States and their regions. The policy is reviewed by the EU institutions once every seven years. The next round of programmes, including PEACE PLUS, covers the period 2021 - 2027.

Three draft regulations set out the rules within which the PEACE PLUS cross-border Operational Programme must be prepared, agreed and implemented. These are:

The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) COM (2018) 375 (Proposal)

In order to enable consistency, this proposal sets out common rules on planning, delivery and implementation of programmes, policy objectives, financial management and monitoring and evaluation of seven shared management funds: the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument.

European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund COM (2018) 372 (Proposal)

The new single regulation on the ERDF and CF (previously covered by two separate regulations) defines provisions applicable to both funds intervening under the "Investment for jobs and growth" goal and, with regard to the ERDF, under the "European territorial cooperation" goal (Interreg).

It identifies and sets the specific objectives and scope of support of the ERDF support, including non-eligible activities. In addition, common output and common result indicators are specified in this proposed regulation.

The proposal on the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation also sets out budgetary implications of the ERDF which is the source fund for actions covered by ETC proposal. The PEACE PLUS programme will receive ERDF support and hence be subject to the provisions of this regulation.

The European Territorial Cooperation Regulation COM (2018) 374 (Proposal)

This draft regulation lays down rules for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) with a view to fostering cooperation between Member States inside the Union and between Member States and adjacent third countries, partner countries, other territories or overseas countries and territories ('OCTs') respectively.

This draft regulation also lays down the provisions necessary to ensure effective programming including on technical assistance, monitoring, evaluation, communication, eligibility, management and control, as well as financial management of programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal ('Interreg programmes').

This proposal for a Regulation should be seen in the context of much of the delivery and implementation of ETC programmes being covered by CPR and ERDF. Its main focus is on key implementation and cooperation issues, notably:

- the definition and geographical coverage of the five INTERREG strands;
- INTERREG-specific objectives and scope;

- adaptations of the CPR rules on programming, programme authorities, management and control and financial management; and
- integration of EU external financing instruments.

PEACE PLUS will be funded as a European Territorial Co-operation Programme and is therefore subject to the provisions of this regulation.

These three draft regulations form part of a package of proposals that are collectively referred to as the Common Strategic Framework (CSF). The other draft regulations in this package relate to the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and Just Transition Fund (JTF). While these draft regulations have no direct impact on PEACE PLUS, they would have to be considered if joint funding mechanisms are to be employed.

Within Northern Ireland and Ireland, as a North-South Implementation Body the SEUPB is sponsored by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform in Ireland (also known as the Member States). SEUPB has a statutory role in the management of some specific EU funding programmes in the area, and in relation to the European Union's 2014-2020 programming period, the relevant programmes are the following European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Programmes: PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programme (Northern Ireland, Ireland and Western Scotland). For the 2021-2027 programming period these programmes will be combined in a single programme: PEACE PLUS.

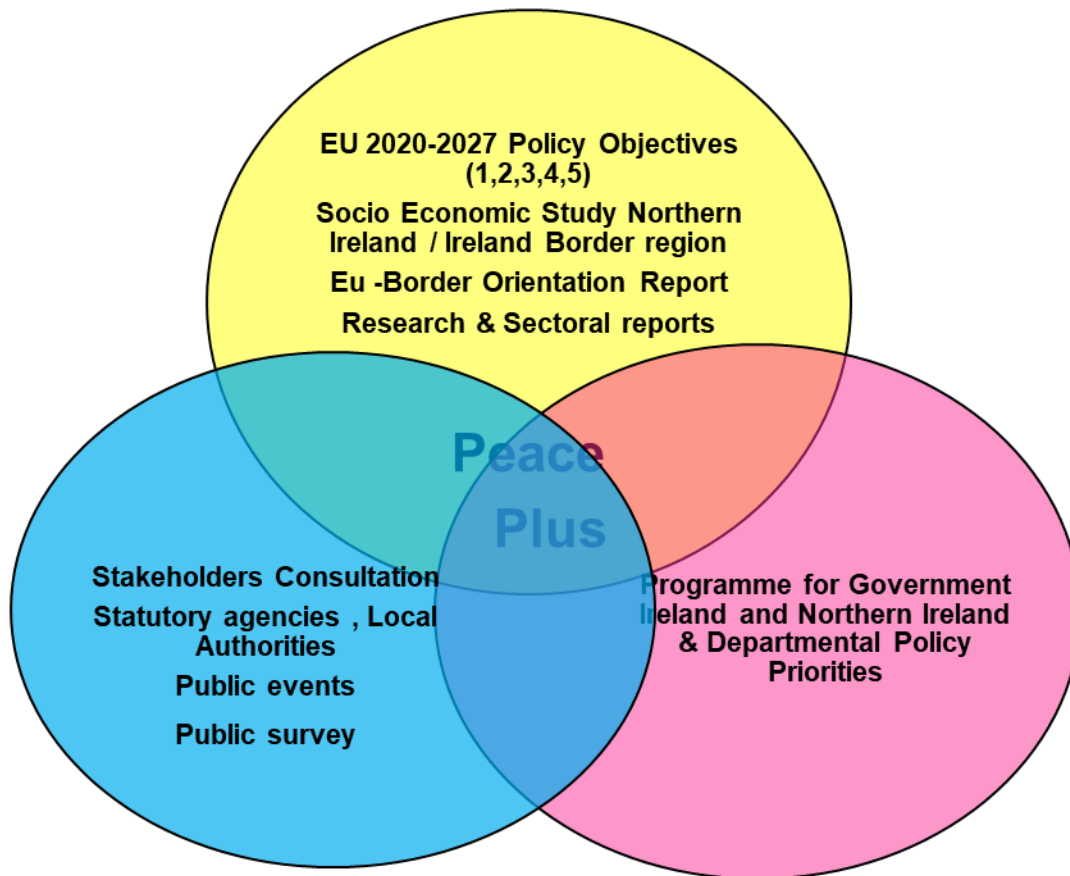
SEUPB has the statutory responsibility to advise the Member States on the development of the PEACE PLUS Programme. Therefore SEUPB has the responsibility to develop the PEACE PLUS Programme following a partnership principle. The SEUPB will also implement the Programme, including the application process; project monitoring; support and evaluation; and management of resources.

Who owns and who implements each element of the policy?

SEUPB has been tasked by the Member States to prepare the Cooperation Programme for the period 2021 to 2027, and will continue to act as a Managing Authority, operating under the scrutiny of a Programme Monitoring Committee consisting of stakeholders from the EU, Ireland and Northern Ireland (Member States, cross-border and other relevant sectoral stakeholders).

In order to ensure that PEACE PLUS will be ready for implementation during 2021, SEUPB has been involved in a lengthy planning process based on the draft regulations.

The Programme has been developed as a result of intensive stakeholder engagement and research material, the key component parts of this is summarised in the figure below.



This draft design represents the culmination of an extensive consultation and stakeholder engagement process which commenced in the summer of 2019. This has included reference to:

- The framework for EU Programmes set out in the draft post 2020 EU Regulations;
- Government policy;
- Priorities and objectives set out in New Decade, New Approach, Project Ireland 2040 and the Programme for Government;
- A socio-economic profile of the Programme area was commissioned in 2019. An addendum to the report has been added to include Covid-19 impacts. The impacts of Covid-19 were considered in each theme as they were developed;
- A Stakeholder Engagement process initiated in November 2019 through to February 2020. Public events across the Programme area and over 300 surveys provided important information and views from the citizens;

- Bi-lateral engagement with Government Departments in Northern Ireland and Ireland resulting in Joint North South Draft Position Papers on core elements of the Programme. This partnership approach to the drafting in this phase will continue in particular on selection of interventions, output indicators and indicative budgets for each element of the programme; and
- Meetings with stakeholders from a wide range of sectors at all levels, including statutory agencies, local government, business representatives and community and voluntary organisations.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

YES	NO	N/A
X		

If YES, are they

Financial: YES (If YES, please detail)

Provision has been made for a budget of approximately €1bn, including proposals from the EU budget, the Government of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Executive and the U.K. Government.

The indicative budget for each Theme is shown in the section “Programme Budget” above.

Legislative: YES (If YES, please detail)

The EU regulations that set out the rules within which the PEACE PLUS Programme operates must be prepared, agreed and implemented. They include the following (see above for further details):

- Common Provisions – Proposal for a Regulation COM(2018) 375 and annexes;
- ERDF and Cohesion Funds – Proposal for a Regulation COM(2018) 372 and annexes;
- Specific provisions for territorial cooperation – Proposal for a Regulation COM(2018) 374 and annexes;

- Commission proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027, COM(2018) 322 final/2, procedure 2018/0166(APP).

These draft regulations have not been adopted. The proposed regulations present a number of changes to the way cohesion policy is designed and implemented.

Other, please specify:

N/A

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

Staff:

The Programme will be managed by SEUPB staff in line with normal contractual arrangements. A Programme Management Committee (PMC), chaired by SEUPB's Chief Executive and made up of representatives of the Member States, key stakeholder groups and sponsoring departments, will oversee the implementation and running of the programme, and will play a pivotal role in ensuring ongoing engagement with representative bodies throughout the duration of the project.

Service users:

The Programme will impact on individuals and communities across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. The programme will also impact on all those who are associated with sectors that the Programme supports, i.e. research institutions, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), environmental agencies, transport agencies, health agencies and those who use the services provided by these agencies.

Other public sector organisations:

A wide spectrum of public is likely to be involved in the delivery of the Programme, this will include local government.

Voluntary/community/trade unions:

The Programme will involve engagement with the voluntary/community sector and relevant trade unions.

Other, please specify:

Given that the Programme is significant in scale and scope, it is likely to make a far-reaching contribution to the economies of Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, and its citizens, and many business sectors including SMEs. However, this impact is likely to be positive and should bring benefits to the programme area and local communities through selective investment in relevant projects

Other policies with a bearing on this policy**What are they and who owns them?**

There are various strategies in place within the programme area and Europe that complement the chosen themes of the new PEACE PLUS Programme. Over and above those policies that have informed previous programmes, including PEACE IV and INTERREG V, local policies that continue to have a direct bearing include⁵:

- NI Programme for Government - Draft
- Ireland-NI Protocol
- New Decade, New Approach (2020)
- NI Executive Formation Agreement
- NI Civil Service Outcomes Delivery Plan (ODP) (December, 2019)
- Lifetime Opportunities – Government’s Anti-Poverty and Social inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland (OFMDFM, 2006)
- NI Sustainable Development Strategy (OFMDFM, 2010)
- Together: Building a United Community (OFMDFM, 2013)
- A Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2005-2010 (OFMDFM, 2005)
- Improving Children’s Life Chances - The Child Poverty Strategy (OFMDFM, 2011)
- Children’s and Young People’s Strategy 2019 - 2029 (DE, 2019);
- Active Aging Strategy (DfC, 2016-2021)

⁵ Please note that this is an indicative list only and does not name every policy and strategy considered

- NI Gender Equality Strategy 2006-2016 (OFMDFM, 2007)
- Regional Development Strategy 2035 (DRD, 2010)
- A Strategy to Improve the Lives of People with a Disability 2012-2015 (DHSS, 2017)
- Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation – A new Framework (DARD, 2016)
- Knowledge Framework (DAERA)

Beyond Northern Ireland, other relevant and current policies include the following:

Ireland

- Ireland Draft Programme for Government – Our Shared Future
- Ireland-NI Protocol (2020)
- Ireland 2020
- Project Ireland 2040 (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, 2018)
- National Mitigation Plan Ireland (DCCAIE, 2017)
- National Adaptation Framework (2018)
- National Development Plan 2018-2027 (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (2018, last updated 2020)
- The National Spatial Strategy for Ireland 2002-2020
- Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007-2020
- Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan
- Building Ireland's Smart Economy
- Healthy Ireland – A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025
- Research Prioritisation: A Framework for Monitoring Public Investment in Science, Technology and Innovation, July 2013; DJEI
- National Children's Strategy, Our Children – Their Lives, Department of Health, 2000
- Healthy Ireland – A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025
- Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2019 (DCCAIE, 2019)

European

- A Strategy for Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth: Communication from the Commission 2020 - Brussels, (2010)
- A Digital Agenda for Europe: Communication from the Commission to The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Brussels, (2010)
- An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era, European Commission 2010

- First Annual Convention of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion (Oct 2011)
- European Commission's Resource Efficient Europe
- European Territorial Co-operation (ETC) Regulations
- European Common Provisions Regulations (CPR)
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Regulations
- Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions COM(2017) 534 final
- The European Green Deal COM (2019) 640 final
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015). UN's Sustainable development Goals
- Horizon 2020 - The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation
- Natura 2000
- EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 – towards implementation
- First Annual Convention of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion (Oct 2011)
- Territorial Agenda 2030

Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for relevant Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information
ALL	<p>SEUPB commenced the programme development process for PEACE PLUS in 2019; since then, a considerable amount of preparatory work, research and stakeholder engagement has taken place, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary document of the views expressed and surveys submitted during the Stakeholder Engagement process (November 2019/February 2020) can be found on SEUPB's website: https://www.seupb.eu/PEACEPLUSConsultation-2019-20; • A socio-economic profile of the programme area was commissioned in 2019 and concluded early in 2020. The impacts of the Covid-19 emergency have been considered in each theme as they have been developed. Many of the issues outlined within the report will be impacted further by the challenging economic outlook arising from the pandemic. An update to the profile is being prepared relating to the implications of Covid-19, both socially and economically; • Ongoing bi-lateral engagement with government departments in Northern Ireland and Ireland based on their joint North-South Position Papers, as work has continued in designing the themes; • The PDSG provided their advice and guidance on the proposed programme at its meeting in July 2020 and this was incorporated into the draft content of themes; • European Commission meeting re. progress and technical areas in the

programme;

- Policy Alignment to the Programme for Government in Ireland and Northern Ireland (including the draft Outcomes Framework in Northern Ireland);
- The European Green Deal has been considered in each theme.

Throughout this time, the SEUPB has continued to welcome input from a wide range of key stakeholders within the Programme area of Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland, utilising a range of engagement techniques including public events and a bespoke stakeholder survey.

The survey is one of a number of sources of information which will influence the shape of the new Programme. The other sources of information include but are not limited to:

- Draft Regulations including EU Policy Framework – European Commission;
- UK / Northern Ireland and Ireland policies and strategies of relevance;
- Border Orientation Paper – European Commission;
- Socio-economic Profile (SEP) Area Analysis of the Programme Area;
- Draft Joint Position Papers from Government Departments, Northern Ireland and Ireland;
- Public roadshow across the programme area, 16 events with over 1000 participants (pre Covid-19) and engagement with Local Public Authorities;
- Sectorial expertise in the Programme Development Steering Groups.

(See Appendices 3 and 4 for examples of population data used to inform the screening.)

Various communication tools and interventions were employed to maximise awareness of the stakeholder engagement survey and support a high level of good quality responses. This included:

- Stakeholder engagement events (November 2019 – January 2020). (Over 1000 people attended 16 events across the programme area. In addition, a number of specific youth events were undertaken.);
- Smaller events arranged by umbrella organisations;
- Direct email campaign;

- Social media campaign;
- Website promotion;
- Advertising online and in print;
- PR campaign.

The survey was available to complete online via the Survey Monkey platform from 10 December 2019 until 28 February 2020. Respondents had the option to respond to the survey by email or post. Documentation was also available on the webpage in Irish and other accessible formats were available on request.

Data analysis

A total of 320 valid responses were received (241 organisations and 79 individuals). A response was deemed to be valid if the respondent provided their name, address and answered at least one question in the survey. All valid responses received an acknowledgment letter or email from the SEUPB.

Respondents were asked 17 closed questions, and the responses were rated using a scale of one to seven. A score of one meant the respondent felt the issue was at the lowest level of relevance/benefit and a score of seven meant the respondent felt the issue was at the highest level of relevance/benefit. Each question also had a 'Don't Know' box which a respondent could tick.

The survey also included 14 open ended survey questions. For analysis purposes these were categorised into key themes and summarised. Many respondents provided detailed responses running to several pages, along with additional documents. While it has not been possible to include the full detail of all responses, the SEUPB PEACE PLUS team have reviewed each response and made every effort to represent all responses as fairly and comprehensively as possible.

The analysis concentrated on four main areas, as follows:

- Background of respondents;
- The relevance of indicative actions to support peace and reconciliation;
- The relevance of activities that contribute to North/ South economic, social and environmental development of the Programme area;
- Simplification of the administration, management and implementation of

the Programme and projects.

While the survey revealed a considerable amount of data of relevance to the overall development of the Programme, in relation specifically to Section 75 considerations the following points have been extracted from the analysis:

Background of Respondents:

- The majority of respondents (228) were based in Northern Ireland (71.3%);
- Almost one fifth (18.8%) represented those in the Border Counties (60 respondents);
- Half of respondents (159) who took part in the survey would like to be involved with the PEACE PLUS Programme. 80.5% of these respondents were from organisations (128), denoting an early interest in funding opportunities;
- In addition, 46.4% of respondents (148), receive or have previously received funding from the PEACE or INTERREG programmes as a project partner or a subcontracted organisation.

The relevance of indicative actions to support Peace and Reconciliation:

- 94.7% of respondents stated that actions to improve social and community cohesion were relevant and 76% of this group rated it at the highest possible level of relevance (grade 7).
- 84.7% of respondents stated that actions to improve employment opportunities were relevant and 55.3% of this group rated it at the highest possible level of relevance (grade 7);
- 88% of respondents stated that increasing access to education was relevant and 57% of this group rated it at the highest possible level of relevance (grade 7);
- 74.2% of respondents stated that actions to reduce marginalisation through improved housing and services were relevant and 43% of this group rated it at the highest possible level of relevance (grade 7);
- 77.8% of respondents stated that actions to increase access to quality health care in the programme area were relevant and of this group 48%

rated it at the highest possible level of relevance (grade 7);

- 84.8% of respondents stated that actions related to other peace building activities were relevant and 62% of this group rated it at the highest possible level of relevance (grade 7);
- The most frequently cited challenges for greater peace and reconciliation within the programme area reported by a large number of respondents was the changes and uncertainty related to Brexit.
- Respondents outlined a number of other challenges to peace and reconciliation including:
 - **Social** challenges such as demographics (ageing population and migration), education matters (segregation and integration), health matters (inequalities, chronic illness, mental health and intergenerational trauma), segregated housing and communities, poverty and deprivation, isolation (rural, social and transport) and security (anti-social behaviours, community relations and safety);
 - **Dealing with the past and ongoing division**, for example addressing the legacy of the past, prevailing divisions, intergenerational trauma, unresolved matters (flags, emblems and parades), threats from dissidents, rural security issues and rural segregation (preventing residents from taking part in the economic and social life of their community);
 - **Economic** challenges for example economic issues caused by the troubles/ conflict, instability in the programme area has caused a lack of investment, failure to address economic inactivity and skills shortages, pressure on departmental and local government budgets and its impact on the voluntary and community sector has reduced their capacity to deliver PEACE PLUS;
 - **Language and identity** challenges such as disputes over cultural and identity rights at institutional and community level and marginalisation/division in other areas such as gender, sexual orientation and race.
- Engagement of hard-to-reach groups was deemed a key challenge for delivering Peace and Reconciliation. This included hard-to-reach young people, people from different sides of the

community, the business community not traditionally engaged in peace activities and those at risk of involvement in paramilitary or criminal activity;

Respondents were asked to identify the main opportunities for greater Peace and Reconciliation. A wide range of opportunities were identified and including:

- Social opportunities - for example, to create a more equal and inclusive society, to promote equal opportunities for traditional and new minority communities and those with disabilities, to provide better health care and services and to improve housing in mixed areas;
- Children and young people - such as to engage young people in peace and reconciliation, support marginalised and disadvantaged young people, reach out to more generic youth population, give young people the tools to manage their own mental health, identify and develop young leaders as role models within their community, encourage youth participation and active citizenship and promote social economy /enterprise models focussed on young people;
- Education – examples include: to tackle educational under achievement, to expand shared education and learning, and increase integrated schools;
- Language, culture and heritage – to understand and integrate the culture of new communities, including refugees, asylum seekers and BAME, to use multi-cultural projects to explore, understand, respect and celebrate all different identities, culture, heritage and language, to focus on cultural identity, cultural awareness, cultural expression and the importance to individual and community identity and more joint language initiatives to highlight the way language could be treated in Northern Ireland;
- Addressing legacy – for example, to continue to deliver themes in support of peace and reconciliation including building positive relations, peace walls, shared spaces and services and to ensure communities are provided with the skills and knowledge so that historical narrative is maintained accurately, victims' issues are dealt with sensitively and celebrations and commemorations are delivered responsibly;
- Community development – to help areas become prosperous, healthier

and better places to live, work and socialise, for local organisations to identify and respond to the needs and strengths of their communities and to empower local community groups through social entrepreneurship;

- Cross-border – opportunities to increase the level of cross border cooperation to build the political and socio-economic capital of the border regions, to increase connectivity and sustainable mobility North and South to family, employment, business sector, education, housing and health care and to develop links between local and regional elected representatives/local government on both sides of the border;
- Economic – the opportunity to build a more prosperous and vibrant economy, moving people out of poverty, increase innovation, support business start-ups, increase the number of skilled workers and create a shared future;
- Shared spaces – to build on community assets and establish shared, safe and sustainable spaces and to utilise the environment as a shared space.

North/South Economic, Social and Environmental Development of the Programme Area

- People and Community – to build skills and capacity, creating vibrant communities, boosting social development, improving opportunities and life chances, reducing poverty and deprivation, mitigating against digital exclusion and helping keep people in the programme area;
- Education and Skills – to provide support for filling STEM skills gaps, reinforcing the need for third level education, creating opportunities for innovation and collaboration between universities, research centres, businesses and enterprises, and attracting and retaining talent;
- Skills – investment in training for young people (including placements and apprenticeships), upskilling and reskilling generally and skills building, entrepreneurship and innovation for rural communities;
- 95.3% of respondents stated that Policy Objective 4 (A More Social Europe) was relevant and of this group 76% rated it at the highest

	<p>possible level of relevance (grade 7). Actions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actions to improve community and social cohesion;• Improving employment opportunities;• Increasing access to quality education (quality and inclusive);• Reducing marginalisation through improved housing and services;• Increasing access to quality health care in the programme area.
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Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision?
Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 Category	Details of Needs/Experiences/Priorities
Race Disability	<p>Those who face barriers to accessibility of programme-related materials or application information, because of either special language requirements or physical impediments, may need to be accommodated in both the planning and implementation of the programme.</p>
Gender Disability Age Religious belief Political opinion Sexual orientation Race	<p>Alongside Section 75, the PEACE PLUS Thematic Objectives must accommodate all relevant anti-discrimination statutes currently in place in Northern Ireland and including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex Discrimination (NI) Order 1976 • Gender Recognition Act 2004 • Disability Discrimination Act 1995 • Race Relations (NI) Order 1997 • Fair Employment & Treatment (NI) Order 1998 • Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (NI) 2006 (Extended to GFS 01/07) • Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (NI) 2006 <p>These statutes do permit certain specified positive action measures but generally outlaw positive discrimination.</p> <p>Furthermore, Article 16 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 on equality between men and women and non-discrimination states:</p> <p>‘The Member States and the Commission shall ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of gender perspective is promoted in the preparation and implementation of programmes. The</p>

	<p>Member States and the Commission shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the various stages of implementation of the Funds and, in particular, in the access to them. In particular, accessibility for disabled persons shall be one of the criteria to be observed in defining operations co-financed by the Funds and to be taken into account during the various stages of implementation.'</p> <p>The labour market continues to be stratified in many ways. While many of these issue lie outside the scope of the Programme itself, it is noted that a number of Themes (e.g. 2 and 5) are likely to attract applications from sectors of the economy that may have traditionally over-represented one gender or community (e.g. ICT). Opportunities for encouraging applications from under-represented groups could be considered as part of the Programme.</p>
<p>Age Disability</p>	<p>Older people and those with mobility problems generally rely on a future transport system that is accessible to all. The drive towards sustainable transport must accommodate these concerns.</p> <p>Increased use of forms of electronic communication can adversely impact on those who are not familiar or comfortable with this technology, and including older people and those in marginalised communities (the so-called 'digital divide'). This can extend to the use of social media as an exclusive form of communication.</p>

Part 2: Screening Questions

Introduction

1. If the conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 categories, then you may decide to screen the policy **out**. If a policy is 'screened out', you should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.
2. If the conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to an EQIA.
3. If the conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an EQIA, or to measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or an alternative policy.

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) *The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;*
- b) *Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and hence it would be appropriate to conduct an EQIA;*
- c) *Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;*
- d) *Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns among affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;*
- e) *The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;*
- f) *The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.*

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) *The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;*
- b) *The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;*
- c) *Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;*

- d) *By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.*

In favour of none

- a) *The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.*
- b) *The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.*

Taking into account the earlier evidence, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity / good relations for those affected by this policy, by applying the following screening questions and the impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 grounds? Minor/Major/None		
Section 75 Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of Impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	In combination, the policy objectives attached to PEACE PLUS aspire to benefit all sectors of the community in Northern Ireland, and to encourage better relations with neighbouring regions and including border counties. Policy Objective 4 (A More Social Europe) in particular aims to reduce divisions between divided communities and enhance good community relations. While traditionally certain sectors of the economy may have been characterised by relatively higher representation from one community (e.g. Protestants/Unionists in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals),	Minor (positive)

	investment in this sector or in the Programme as a whole in itself will not disadvantage any one community but may widen opportunities generally.	
Political opinion	In combination, the policy objectives attached to PEACE PLUS aspire to benefit all sectors of the community in Northern Ireland, and to encourage better relations with neighbouring regions and including border counties. Policy Objective 4 (A More Social Europe) in particular aims to reduce divisions between divided communities and enhance good community relations. While traditionally certain sectors of the economy may have been characterised by relatively higher representation from one community (e.g. Protestants/Unionists in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals), investment in this sector or in the Programme as a whole in itself will not disadvantage any one community but may widen opportunities generally.	Minor (positive)
Racial / ethnic group	In common with earlier PEACE and INTERREG programmes, PEACE PLUS is unlikely to impact negatively on grounds of ethnicity and may actively promote better relations with neighbouring regions through joint project work. Measures designed to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion should benefit those from marginalised communities and including members of BAME communities.	Minor (positive)
Age	Programmes will be available to all ages, and will benefit all citizens of Northern Ireland. Young people, and including those from	Minor (positive)

	disadvantaged areas, are a particular focus.	
Marital status	No identifiable impact.	None
Sexual orientation	No identifiable impact.	None
Men and women generally	While traditionally certain sectors of the economy may have been characterised by relatively higher representation from one gender (i.e. males in research and innovation), investment in this sector or in the Programme as a whole in itself will not disadvantage any gender. Indeed, Article 16 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 specifically commits to promoting equality between men and women.	Minor (positive)
Disability	PEACE PLUS aspires to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of all citizens in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland through its policy objectives, including long term health issues attaching to conflict. While those with a disability tend to be under-represented within the workforce as a whole, the benefits attaching to PEACE PLUS should be experienced by all sections of the community, irrespective of health status, while measures designed to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion should benefit those with a disability, and including those suffering the long-term impact of COVID-19.	Minor (positive)
Dependants	Measures designed to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion should benefit those with dependants.	Minor (positive)

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within any of the Section 75 categories?		
Section 75 Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Racial group Disability	The application process and monitoring of projects should aspire to accommodate those who may have difficulties with standard procedures.	
Gender Disability Age Religious belief	Lawful positive action measures should be considered to encourage applications from under-represented groups within specified sectors of the economy.	
Disability Age Dependency	Sustainable transport initiatives should aspire to accommodate those with particular mobility needs. Communication should ensure that those without access to new/digital technology are not disadvantaged.	

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? Minor/Major/None		
Good Relations Category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	Through all themes and in particular Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities, Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People and Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities, the programme will encourage good relations through a series of measures that aspire to build a cohesive, united community based on tolerance, respect and inclusivity. The programme should also encourage good relations through a series of measures that will enhance the local economy and wellbeing of citizens, and will develop cross-border projects that will be of mutual benefit to all communities.	Minor (positive)
Political opinion	Through all themes and in particular Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities, Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People and Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities, the programme will encourage good relations through a series of measures that aspire to build a cohesive, united community based on tolerance, respect and inclusivity. The programme should also encourage good relations through a series of measures that will enhance the local economy and wellbeing of citizens, and will develop cross-border projects that will be of mutual benefit to all communities.	Minor (positive)
Racial group	Through all themes and in particular Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities, Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young	Minor

	<p>People and Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities, the programme will encourage good relations through a series of measures that aspire to build a cohesive, united community based on tolerance, respect and inclusivity. The programme should also encourage good relations through a series of measures that will enhance the local economy and wellbeing of citizens, and will develop cross-border projects that will be of mutual benefit to all communities.</p>	<p>(positive)</p>
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<p>4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?</p>		
<p>Good relations category</p>	<p>If Yes, provide details</p>	<p>If No, provide reasons</p>
<p>Religious belief Political opinion Racial group</p>	<p>PEACE PLUS in itself is likely to enhance good relations through the framing of targeted initiatives and positive actions, together with selective funding of projects designed to enhance the physical environment and local economy while also tackling social deprivation.</p>	

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

The above comments will also apply to considerations where one or more protected characteristic combine.

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

The programme implicitly acknowledges the complexities of social identity, for example where different identities can combine to define specific disadvantages in a marginalised community. The six themes in combination aspire to address disadvantage across a range of identities, whether singly or in combination.

Part 3: Screening Decision

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should: (please underline one):

- 1. Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)**
- 2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)**
- 3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time**
- 4. Be subject to an EQIA**

If 1. or 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

At this stage of its design, and set against the socio-economic uncertainties attaching to COVID-19, PEACE PLUS has been developed not only to align with wider EU policies that aspire to promote economic and social cohesion between all communities in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, but also to reflect a range of local initiatives that will help the region move forward positively. The six Themes and associated Investment Areas and Specific Objectives are based on extensive research and reflect current thinking, and were widely endorsed throughout the stakeholder engagement process in late 2019 and early 2020. PEACE PLUS has also been designed to enhance the local economy, and both the physical and social environments in Northern Ireland through a series of targeted projects that, in themselves, will not adversely impact on any section of the community. At the same time, opportunities to actively promote equality of opportunity through lawful measures have the potential to be explored in order to address longstanding labour market issues, for example in relation to gender segregation, while steps taken to develop sustainable transport should be developed mindful of potential impacts on those with special mobility needs.

If 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?

The application process and monitoring of projects should aspire to accommodate those who may have difficulties with standard procedures.

Lawful positive action measures should be considered to encourage applications from under-represented groups within specified sectors of the economy.

Sustainable transport initiatives should aspire to accommodate those with particular mobility needs.

Communication in relation to PEACE PLUS should take cognisance of the digital divide, and ensure that no sections of society feel thereby excluded from the programme.

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy at a future date?

NO

If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

Timetabling and Prioritising EQIA

If 3. or 4., is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? YES / NO

If YES, please provide details:

n/a

Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for EQIA.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority's functions	

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: _____

Any further comments on the screening process and any subsequent actions?

Part 4: Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development. You should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007). The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, then you should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

SEUPB will commit to continue to monitor those who engage directly with PEACE PLUS by relevant Section 75 grounds, and will work with NISRA to ensure that these procedures continue to yield meaningful data that can be used to evaluate whether the programme has helped promote equality of opportunity and good relations. Where any adverse impact is identified through routine monitoring then SEUPB commits to take all reasonable steps to remedy the problem.

Part 5: Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Kattalin Camara Buldain	Programme Officer	23.2.2021
John Kremer	External Consultant	22.2.2021
Declan McGarrigle	Programme Manager	23.2.2021
Approved by:		
Gina McIntyre 	Chief Executive. CEO	23.2.2021

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on your website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

Draft EU Regulations' Policy Objectives and Specific Objectives⁶

PO	Policy objective	Specific objective
1	A MORE COMPETITIVE AND SMARTER EUROPE by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity	(i) Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies.
		(ii) Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisation and public authorities.
		(iii) Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments.
		(iv) Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship.
		(v) Enhancing digital connectivity
2	A GREENER, LOW-CARBON TRANSITIONING TOWARDS A NET ZERO CARBON ECONOMY AND RESILIENT EUROPE by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation risk prevention and	(i) Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
		(ii) Promoting renewable energy in accordance with the Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein.
		(iii) Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside TEN-E.
		(iv) Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches.
		(v) Promoting access to water and sustainable water management.
		(vi) Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy.
		(vii) Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution.

⁶ Policy Objectives as per the negotiations in February 2021

	management, and sustainable urban mobility	(viii) Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy.
3	A MORE CONNECTED EUROPE by enhancing mobility	(i) Developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure, sustainable and intermodal TEN-T.
		(ii) Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility.
4	A MORE SOCIAL AND INCLUSIVE EUROPE implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights	(i) Enhancing the effectiveness and inclusiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social infrastructure and promoting social economy.
		(ii) Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training.
		(iii) Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups including people with special needs, through integrated actions including housing and social services.
		(iii –bis) Promoting the socio-economic integration of third country nationals, including migrants through integrated actions, including housing and social services.
		(iv) Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care.
		(v) Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation.
		(vi) As per Article 14(3) in the ETC regulations: a) Improving access to employment and activation measures of all jobseekers, in particular youth, especially through the implementation of the Youth

- Guarantee, long-term unemployed and disadvantaged groups on the labour market, and of inactive people, promoting self-employment and the social economy
- b) Modernising labour market institutions and services to assess and anticipate skills needs and ensure timely and tailor-made assistance and support to labour market matching, transitions and mobility
 - c) Promoting a gender-balanced labour market participation, equal working conditions, and a better work/life balance including through access to affordable childcare, and care for dependent persons
 - d) Promoting the adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change, active and healthy ageing and a healthy and well-adapted working environment that addresses health risks
 - e) Improving the quality, inclusiveness, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems including through validation of non-formal and informal learning, to support acquisition of key competences including entrepreneurial and digital skills, and by promoting the introduction of dual-training systems and apprenticeship
 - f) Promoting equal access to and completion of, quality and inclusive education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, and to tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all and accessibility for persons with disabilities
 - g) Promoting lifelong learning, notably flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all taking into account entrepreneurial and digital skills, better anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility
 - h) Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal

		<p>opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Promoting socio-economic integration of third country nationals, including migrants; j) Promoting the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities such as Roma; k) Enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care including healthcare ; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services l) Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived and children;
		<p>(vii) Peace and Reconciliation (specific to PEACE PLUS, as per ETC Regulation Article 14(2))</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>A EUROPE CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in urban areas. (ii) Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental local development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security, in areas other than urban areas.
<p>6</p>	<p>INTERREG SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: A BETTER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Enhance institutional capacity of public authorities, in particular those mandated to manage a specific territory, and of stakeholders

	<p>COOPERATION GOVERNANCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) Enhance efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens, civil actors and institutions, in particular with a view to resolving legal and other obstacles in border regions (iii) Building up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people to people actions (iv) Enhance institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement macro-regional and sea-basin strategies, as well as other territorial strategies (v) Enhancing sustainable democracy and by supporting civil society actors and their role in reforming processes and democratic transitions (for Interreg B, C and D) (vi) Other actions to support “a better cooperation governance”
<p>7</p>	<p>INTERREG SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: A SAFER AND MORE SECURE EUROPE</p>	<p>Actions in the fields of border crossing management and mobility and migration management, including the protection and economic and social integration of third country nationals including migrants and beneficiaries of international protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Border management infrastructure (II) Mobility and migration management (III) Protection and integration of migrants (including refugees) (I) Other actions to contribute to a safer and more secure Europe

Appendix 2: Investment Area Objectives by Theme

Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities

Investment Area 1: Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans

To enable and empower local community partnerships, led by the Local Authorities, to select and deliver priority projects on a cross community basis, which will result in shared and inclusive local services, facilities and spaces; and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation.

PEACE PLUS Action Plans will be produced for each of the 17 local authority areas. These will be designed to complement the community planning arrangements currently adopted across the Programme area.

Investment Area 2: Empowering Communities

To empower community, voluntary and statutory organisations at all levels across the Programme area to contribute to the creation of a more peaceful and prosperous society.

Strand 1: The Empowering Communities to Embed Peace Small Grants Programme will support the delivery of people to people projects by local community organisations.

Strand 2: The Institutional Capacity Development Programme will ensure issues related to Trust and Leadership are supported through collaborative actions between key voluntary, statutory and political institutions across multiple levels.

Strand 3: The Community-Based Safety Interventions Programme will support projects with the potential to improve peace and reconciliation within local communities.

Investment Area 3: Building Positive Relations

To 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.

The Building Positive Relations Programme will provide support for projects which transcend local boundaries and have the potential to achieve significant peace and reconciliation across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

Investment Area 4: Re-Imaging Communities

To create a more cohesive society through an increased provision of transformative shared space and services, which will support and embed peace and reconciliation.

Theme 2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation

Investment Area 1: SME Development and Transition

To enhance sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs, including by productive investments.

The SME Development and Transition Programme will build upon existing investment to support SMEs to: operate at scale through cross border collaboration; engage in commercially led innovation; effectively transition to engage in the low carbon, circular economy; deliver productivity improvements or transition to the latest digitisation tools; and strengthen capacity for maximum engagement in a post Brexit, post COVID-19 economic landscape.

Investment Area 2: Innovation Challenge Fund

To develop and enhance research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies in a manner which delivers maximum economic regeneration and transformation.

The Innovation Challenge Fund will support high level, commercially focused research, development and innovation within key Programme area growth sectors, resulting in increased productivity, higher export levels and sustainable employment. It will deliver major change innovation projects, which result in lasting local and national economic and social benefit.

Investment Area 3: Programme Area Skills Development

To develop skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship.

Programme Area Skills Development will support area-based approaches, designed to address key skills gaps, which will result in increased productivity and employment and higher levels of cross border labour mobility. The Programme will enable cross community and cross border collaboration between education and training-based collaborations which will reduce duplication and maximise the capacity to address existing and emerging skills gaps. It will encompass the opportunity for up skilling, reskilling, training and job placement opportunities.

Investment Area 4: Smart Towns and Villages

To reap the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisation and public

authorities.

The Smart Towns and Villages Programme will provide greater access to and awareness of telecommunications. An area-based approach will be adopted to the creation of Smart Towns and Villages. This proven model utilises a social innovation led approach to maximise the potential of Information Communications Technology (ICT) to deliver improved social and economic outcomes in target areas; particularly those of a rural nature. The Programme will also incorporate measures for the transformation of vacant spaces and facilities within town and village centres for communal recreational and social usage.

Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People

Investment Area 1: Shared Learning Together Programme

To provide direct, sustained contact between children from all backgrounds through collaboration between early childhood settings, schools and youth organisations, to promote good relations and enhance children's skills to contribute to a cohesive society.

The Learning Together Programme will enable the further development of existing shared education relationships, while ensuring the involvement of schools and young organisations yet to participate in the Programme. It will facilitate the education together of those of different religious beliefs, including reasonable numbers of both Protestant and Catholic children and young persons; including those who are experiencing socio-economic deprivation and those who are not; which is secured by the working together and co-operation of two or more relevant education providers.

Investment Area 2: PEACE PLUS Youth Programme

To 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.

The PEACE PLUS Youth Programme is a targeted capacity building Programme for young people aged 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 paramilitary activity. The Programme is outcomes focused across a number of key areas including good relations, personal development, citizenship and employability.

Investment Area 3: Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing

To 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.

The Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme will support non statutory provision activity involving cross community and cross border multi-agency collaborative approaches, which will lead to improved understanding of youth mental health issues and the sharing of best practice to improve related interventions. In addition to mental health, supported projects will also focus on the social, emotional and environmental wellbeing of young people and building their capacity. The Programme will make a considerable contribution to peace and reconciliation through the development of enhanced emotional resilience in our young people.

Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities

Investment Area 1: Collaborative Health and Social Care

To ensure equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care.

The Collaborative Health & Social Care Programme will build upon existing and new cross community and cross border collaborative approaches to health and social care delivery models (within specified treatment areas), to deliver an increased number of episodes of care. It will support the development of innovative community based health care interventions, which complement statutory provision (including social enterprise models). The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the potential of information communications technology to transform healthcare services and reduce inequalities. The Programme will support further advancements within this area and seek to address the longer-term impact of COVID-19 upon healthcare provision across the Programme area. This will improve the health and well-being of people living in the Programme area, by enabling them to access quality health and social care services in the most appropriate setting to their needs. It will result in a more resilient health and social care sector, which contributes to improved population health and wellbeing and reduced health inequalities.

Investment Area 2: Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion

To create a more cohesive society through an increased provision of community spaces, key services and supports in rural areas.

The Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion Programme will support social, economic and environmental projects which contribute to sustainable regeneration, social inclusion and the creation of healthy and thriving communities in rural areas. By adopting a strengths-based

approach, the programme will contribute to the creation of a more balanced society, in which our rural communities thrive.

Investment Area 3: Victim and Survivors

To create a more cohesive society through an increased provision of services.

The PEACE IV Programme currently supports an integrated, outcomes based, community led support programme for victims and survivors. This has improved the lives of many victims and survivors in the Programme area and beyond, including cross community and cross border interventions. The Victims and Survivors Programme provides an opportunity to learn from and build upon this work, to provide additional support to victims and survivors. The proposed areas are as follows: Further development of the health and wellbeing case worker network model; Advocacy support programmes (Truth, Justice and Acknowledgement); Sector training and development; Research including new co-designed and action based approaches; and Further development of the resilience programmes.

Theme 5: Supporting a Sustainable Future and Better Connected Future

Investment Area 1: Biodiversity, Nature Recovery & Resilience

To enhance protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in the urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution.

Investment will be directed towards further delivery of conservation actions proven to redress biodiversity loss and preserve these important environmental, social and economic assets.

Investment Area 2: Marine and Coastal Management

To promote climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention and disaster resilience, taking into account ecosystem based approaches.

The Marine and Coastal Management Programme will enable a cross border approach to the protection of the marine and coastal environment from natural and anthropological threats; safeguarding this irreplaceable natural asset and resulting in economic, social and cultural benefits to the Programme area.

Investment Area 3: Water Quality and Catchment Management

To promote access to water and sustainable water management.

The Water Quality and Catchment Management Programme will enable a cross border collaborative approach to the management and improvement of water quality in selected cross border water bodies. In line with the Water Framework Directive, this will be demonstrated by an improved classification over time. The Programme will promote sustainable water management. It will improve freshwater quality in cross border river basins and result in an increased percentage of cross border freshwater bodies in cross border river basins with good or high quality.

Investment Area 4: Water Quality Improvement Programme

To promote access to water and sustainable water management.

The Water Quality Improvement Programme will result in an improvement in the water quality of three specific transitional water bodies: Lough Erne, Lough Melvin and Donegal Bay through cross border collaboration. In addition, raw drinking water quality will be improved through the reduction of pollutants, including those of an agricultural nature.

Investment Area 5: Geothermal Energy Demonstration Programme

To promote energy efficiency and reduce green-house gas emissions.

The Geothermal Energy Demonstration Programme will build the knowledge, skills and capacity required to develop a policy framework and encourage investment in the geothermal technology sector. Associated cross border collaboration to achieve the replacement of fossil fuels by indigenous renewable energy in the heat sector, will result in a reduced reliance on fossil fuels and enhanced energy security. It will deliver economic, social and environmental benefits across the Programme area.

Investment Area 6: Enhanced Sustainable Travel Connectivity

Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility.

The Enhanced Sustainable Travel Connectivity Programme will increase connectivity in the form of sustainable public transport. It will involve significant investment in sustainable rail stock. The improvement of the rail service linking the two capital cities and the smaller adjacent urban centres of Portadown, Newry, Dundalk and Drogheda can exploit this dynamic to its full potential, providing spin-off agglomeration and wider economic and environmental benefits, including contributing to the long-term development of a zero emissions rail network. Investment in transport will be a catalyst for regeneration and economic growth, in particular on the economic corridor between

Belfast and Dublin, including the border counties in both Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Theme 6: Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration

Investment Area 1: Strategic Planning and Engagement

The Strategic Planning and Engagement Programme will support, the engagement of strategic stakeholders, targeting legal and administrative obstacles to cooperation in relevant sectors. The funding will focus on enabling joint development and management of strategies; cooperation capacity building; and identification of solutions to reduce obstacles to cross-border cooperation.

Investment Area 2: Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens

Building up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people to people actions.

The Trust Building Measures between Citizens Programme will put in place mechanisms to finance smaller projects that make a strong contribution to the social and civic cohesion on a cross border basis.

Appendix 3: Census Data, 2001 & 2011

DATA ON RESIDENTS OF NORTHERN IRELAND⁷

Totals

	2001	2011
All residents	1,685,267	1,810,863
All residents aged 16+	1,287,211	1,431,540
Number of households	626,718	703,275

Religious belief (religion or religion brought up in)

	2001		2011	
	No.	%	No.	%
Catholic	737,473	43.76	817,385	45.14
Protestant & other Christian (including Christian related)	895,382	53.13	875,717	48.36
Other religion	6,573	0.39	16,592	0.92
None	45,839	2.72	101,169	5.59

Ethnic group

	2001		2011	
	No.	%	No.	%
White	1,670,988	99.15	1,778,449	98.21
Chinese	4,145	0.25	6,303	0.35
Irish Traveller	1,710	0.10	1,301	0.07
Indian	1,567	0.09	6,198	0.34
Pakistani	666	0.04	1,091	0.06
Bangladeshi	252	0.01	540	0.03
Other Asian	194	0.01	4,998	0.28
Black Caribbean	255	0.02	372	0.02
Black African	494	0.03	2,345	0.13
Black Other	387	0.02	899	0.05
Mixed	3,319	0.20	6,014	0.33

⁷ Data from Northern Ireland Census (unless otherwise indicated)

Other	1,290	0.08	2,353	0.13
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Country of birth

	2001		2011	
	No.	%	No.	%
Northern Ireland	1,534,268	91.04	1,608,853	88.84
Great Britain	81,389	4.83	82,724	4.56
Republic of Ireland	39,051	2.32	37,833	2.09
Other EU prior to 2004 expansion	N/A	N/A	9,703	0.54
Other EU after 2004 expansion	N/A	N/A	35,704	1.97
Other	30,559	1.81	36,046	1.99

Note: Eight countries joined the European Union in May 2004: the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Age

	2001		2011	
	No.	%	No.	%
Under 16	398,061	23.62	379,323	20.95
16-24	211,501	12.55	227,634	12.57
25-44	489,256	29.03	498,046	27.50
45-64	363,343	21.56	442,140	24.42
65-84	200,041	11.87	232,324	12.83
85+	23,426	1.39	31,396	1.73

Marital and civil partnership status

	2001		2011	
	No.	%	No.	%
Single	426,195	33.11	517,393	36.14
Married	658,023	51.12	680,831	47.56
In a civil partnership	N/A	N/A	1,243	0.09
Separated	49,429	3.84	56,911	3.98
Divorced /civil partnership dissolved	53,033	4.12	78,074	5.45

Widowed/ surviving partner of civil partnership	100,531	7.81	97,088	6.78
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Gender

	2001		2011	
	No.	%	No.	%
Male	821,399	48.74	887,323	49.00
Female	863,868	51.26	923,540	51.00

Disability

	2001		2011	
	No.	%	No.	%
Disability / long term health problem	343,120	20.36	374,646	20.69
No disability / long term health problem	1,342,147	79.64	1,436,217	79.31

Dependents

	2001		2011	
	No.	%	No.	%
Households with dependent children	262,076	36.47	238,094	33.86
Lone parent households with dependent children			63,921	9.09
People providing unpaid care	185,066	10.98	213,980	11.82

Political opinion

The elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly in May 2011 indicated the following voting pattern:

	DUP	UUP	Alliance	Others	SDLP	SF
Seats won	38	16	8	3	14	29

Change from 2007	+2	+2	-1	=	-2	-1
Vote share	30.0%	13.2%	7.7%	7.9%	14.2%	26.9%
Change from 2007	-0.1	+1.7	+2.5	-0.1	-1.0	+0.7

Source: Economic & Social Research Council (www.ark.ac.uk/elections)

Sexual Orientation

The Rainbow Project estimates that, on the basis of national and international research, 1 in 10 people in Northern Ireland would not identify as being heterosexual.

APPENDIX 4: Comparison of INTERREG IVA Equality Monitoring Returns and 2011 Census for Northern Ireland and the Border Region

Section 75 Category	INTERREG IVA			Population	
	Northern Ireland (%)	Border Region (%)	Total (All Returns) (%)	Northern Ireland (%)	Border Region (%)
Gender					
Male	40.6	44.6	36.5	49	50
Female	59.4	55.4	63.5	51	50
Age					
Under 25	26.1	19.7	20.5	34	35
25-59	64.8	72.5	70.5	47	47
60 and over	9.0	7.8	9.0	20	18
Religion					
Protestant	31.5	4.6	16.0	48	6
Catholic	60.6	88.0	75.9	45	86
Neither Protestant nor Catholic	7.9	7.3	8.1	7	8
Disability					
With Disability	21.6	14.3	18.6	21.0	12
Without Disability	78.4	85.7	81.4	79.0	88
Marital Status					
Single	43.2	43.2	39.5	33	53
Married/In a registered same-sex civil partnership	47.1	48.5	44.6	51	38
Separated married/civil partnership and Divorced/Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	7.5	5.8	10.5	8	4
Widowed/ Surviving partner from a same-sex partnership	2.2	2.5	5.4	8	4

Section 75 Category	INTERREG IVA			Population	
People with/without dependants					
No dependants	52.9	49.5	58.0		
Dependants who are children	38.1	44.3	36.0	34	12
Dependants who are elderly	4.1	2.2	4.0		
Dependants with a disability	4.9	3.2	4.0		
Other dependants (not included above)	0.0	0.8	1.0		
Ethnic Group					
White	97.9	93.8	92.4	98	95
Other Ethnic Groups	2.1	6.2	6.1	1	4
BASE NUMBER	2010	1773	4948		

Based on a merge of equality monitoring forms on 18.09.13, a total of 4948 forms were received under INTERREG IVA and 3838 answered the question on region with 2010 stating they lived in Northern Ireland, 1773 stating they lived in the Border Region, and 55 stating they lived in Scotland. Please note that some people do not answer all questions.

NOTE: Due to the small number of returns, it was not possible to provide a breakdown of equality monitoring forms for Western Scotland.