

YOUR EU!

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



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

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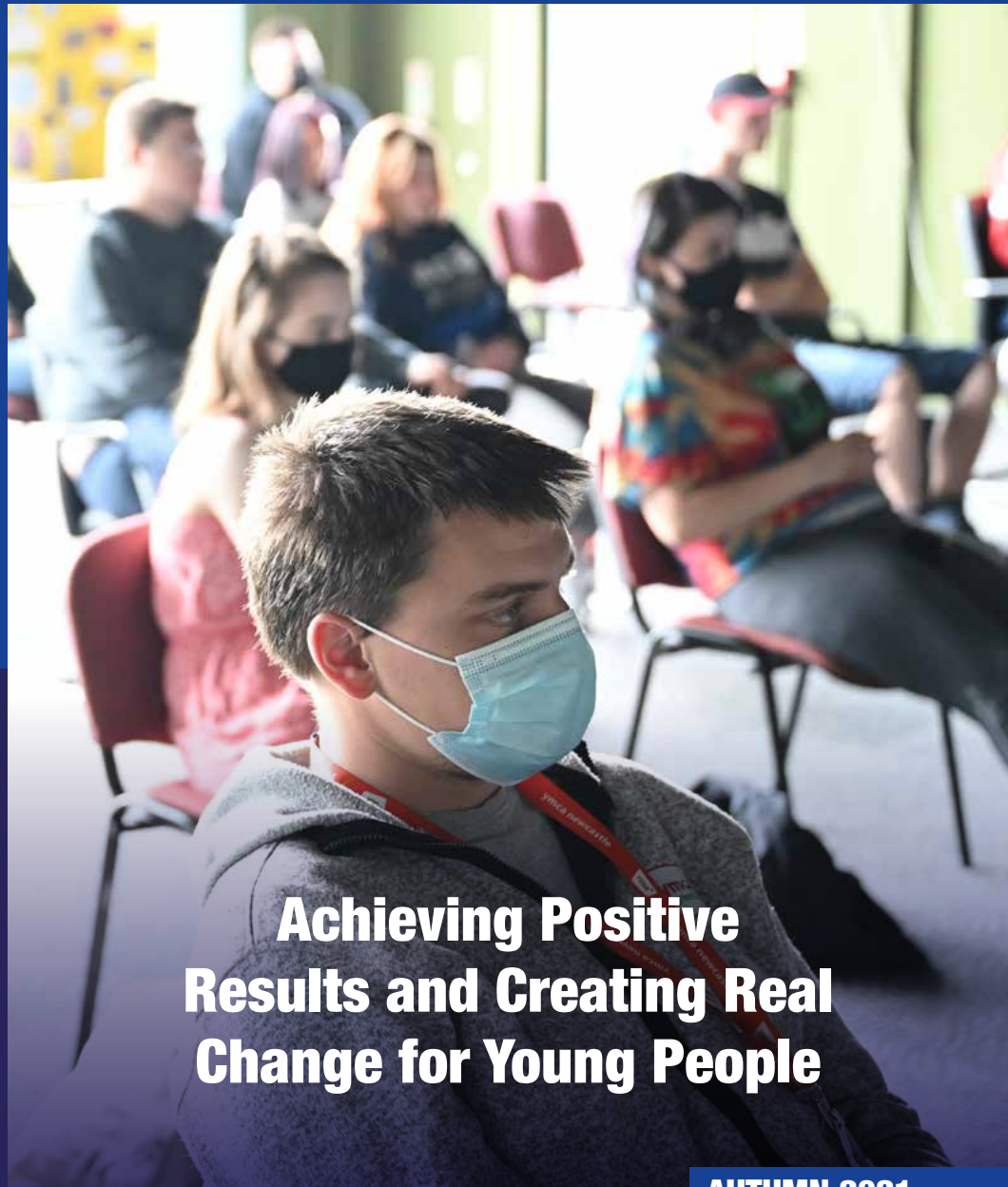
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AUTUMN 2021

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<https://www.seupb.eu>

FOREWORD

WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN EDITION OF YOUR EU! As we find ourselves coming to the end of 2021 it's been an incredibly challenging but extremely rewarding year.



As well as celebrating the success of multiple PEACE IV project's through a breadth of innovative events we undertook a second, successful public consultation on the new PEACE PLUS Programme. Progress on this new programme has not stopped, despite the numerous obstacles posed by COVID-19, and I very much look forward to announcing its launch within the coming months. You can keep up-to-date by visiting our website or by requesting to join our mailing list (peaceplus@seupb.eu)

Given the developments in digital technology we have decided to update this magazine. Hopefully it is more interactive and appealing to readers. We decided to devote a special featurette on the magazine's evolution, covering some of its key stories across the years. I hope you like the new layout and we welcome

any feedback you may have, so please get in touch if you have any comments or suggestions, communications@seupb.eu

Please also recommend and share this magazine with colleagues and friends, so they can sign up to receive its quarterly editions.

As I mentioned, we were delighted to launch the PEACE Programmes Learning Platform with a live stream event in September. Extensive desk research and consultations were carried out to inform the content of this platform, with almost 100,000 pages of information physically scanned and made searchable, and thousands of different files and folders found, indexed and quality checked. A large number of old VHS tapes and audio recordings were also brought back to life, digitised and are now stored within the platform. This 'living archive' will continue

to grow and develop, so that the lessons and lived experiences of peace-building can be shared to support academics, researchers and those currently involved in peace and reconciliation work at a local, regional and international level. If you have not done so already I would encourage you to visit this platform and navigate around its pages: <https://www.peaceplatform.seupb.eu/en/>

I sincerely hope you enjoy reading and please, continue to stay safe and well as we work to recover from the effects of the pandemic on our society and economy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gina McIntyre', written in a cursive style.

GINA MCINTYRE
Chief Executive, the SEUPB

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS AT MONAGHAN PEACE CAMPUS



The Monaghan Peace Campus is creating a new shared community space, comprising of a four-storey, community building and parking in the centre of Monaghan town.

The new shared space has been designed to increase engagement of individuals and communities on a cross-community and cross-border basis through meaningful, purposeful and sustained activities in a proactive programme of initiatives and events.

Core activities that will be explored in the new space will include the impacts and experiences of partition and the conflict; immigration past and present including challenges for BME communities; and culture and tradition, with a focus on exploring and presenting Protestant culture to a wider audience.

The impact of COVID-19 affected the schedule of onsite work, however despite restrictions, works have been ongoing since July 2020 and continued to follow COVID-19 health measures and restrictions (closing from 8 January 2021 and re-opening 4 May 2021).

MATCH-FUNDING

The Department for Communities, Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development, Ireland.

The new space will include:



Youth Facility
350 sq.m



Cultural Heritage Centre
610 sq.m



Library and Peace Archive
481 sq.m



Shared Community
Multi-functional Space
1,171 sq.m



Welcome Zone and Temporary
Exhibition/Event Space
743 sq.m



An External Events Space
3,235 sq.m



Works completed to date include:

- ▶ Project Signage Boards at 3 nr locations erected;
- ▶ Establishment of temporary site offices, welfare facilities, compounds and associated temporary boundary works;
- ▶ Piling works and associated pile cap foundations;
- ▶ Construction of podium ramp structure;
- ▶ Sub-floor drainage, interceptors and ducting works;
- ▶ Attenuation tanks and culvert replacement works;
- ▶ Installation of underground service water pipes and gas pipes ongoing;
- ▶ Tying reinforcement steel to Level 0 carpark slab substantially complete;
- ▶ Casting of Level 0 carpark concrete slab ongoing;
- ▶ Tying reinforcement steel to Level 0 – Level 1 structural columns ongoing;
- ▶ Construction of retaining walls ongoing including temporary works framing;
- ▶ Continual liaison with neighbouring key project stakeholders.



For more information, including a time-lapse video and images



There were so many highlights! Leading data collection sessions; delivering a talk to students at the Letterkenny Institute of Technology; completing an independent data cleaning task; attending meetings and conferences; and spending time on the Magee Campus.

Caitlin Fallis Placement Student



MATCH-FUNDING

Department's of Health, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

PLACEMENT STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE AT HEALTHCARE TRIAL PROJECT



The Cross-border Healthcare Intervention Trials in Ireland Network (CHITIN) is a unique partnership between the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland and the Health Research Board in Ireland, who are working together to deliver 11 Healthcare Intervention Trials (HITs).

The HITs will help to prevent and cure illness and promote improved health and well-being.

The Walking in Schools (WISH) project is just one of such interventions: a peer-led, school based brisk walking intervention for adolescent girls (aged 12-14) which challenges the issue of physical inactivity and aims to overcome barriers to participation.

Caitlin Fallis is a third year, Human Nutrition student at Ulster University. She was afforded the opportunity of a paid placement in the WISH project, as a Research Study Assistant.

Speaking about her decision to pursue a placement Caitlin explained: "There were limited sports activities offered at school that I found enjoyable and I was interested to learn more about why physical activity levels decline among female adolescents. I have a real interest for human nutrition and health promotion."

Amongst Caitlin's responsibilities was preparing resources for school visits; data collection, entry and cleansing; transcribing audio files; creating social media content; and attending walk leader training and walk visits.

Caitlin credits written and oral communication; teamwork; time management; confidence development and problem solving amongst the skills acquired through the placement.

I also created educational videos on sports nutrition that were informative, concise and interactive. I'm so proud that they are being built into a learning platform for GCSE students in Northern Ireland."

For further information on the CHITIN project

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THE NEXT STEP OF THEIR 'JOURNEY'



The €5m Journey's project recently came to an end with a special celebratory event, where participants, family members and staff reflected upon its transformative impact.

The key aim of Journey's was to enhance the capacity of young people, promote diversity and develop effective relationships to impact community and build a cohesive society.

Led by Springboard Opportunities Limited, with partners Roe Valley Residents Association and Cavan/ Monaghan ETB, Journey's provided meaningful cross-community experiences for 14-24 year olds, particularly those deemed to be at risk.

Throughout their four-year 'Journey' young people had life changing experiences, meeting new people from a range of different backgrounds and exploring diversity in a safe environment. Confidence was built through tailored workshops and supportive mentoring, while exploring a range of cultures was highlighted as an area of transformation for young people.

Young people also participated in 'giving back' to the community including volunteering at homeless shelters,

“

I now feel I have skills like listening to people, understanding other people's point of view and how to respect everyone. I have new friends I know I'll have for life now which is exactly what I wanted on the programme.

Project Beneficiary

raising awareness for Mental Health, participating in Pride march and the Darkness into Light event.

Throughout the challenges of COVID-19, the programme continued using creative and innovative ways to engage young people online. Participants reflected reflected how this helped structure their day, allowed access to support, provided a focus on something worthwhile and offered a sense of belonging during such uncertain circumstances.

After completing the programme, young people were supported into the next step of their 'Journey'. They had opportunities to flourish in a supportive environment and had transformative experiences, resulting in 100% of participants recommending the programme.



Pictured at the Journeys closure event are: Front Row: Young beneficiaries Andrew Holden (23) and Taylor Martin (20). Back Row: Jackie Redpath, Chairperson Springboard Ltd; Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB and Angila Chada, Director of Springboard Ltd.

MATCH-FUNDING

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

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Since its first print on 31 March 2006, Your EU! has provided news and updates on EU funding programmes, including case studies and feature articles on some of the staff and beneficiaries of funded projects. With the new look design we felt it was only appropriate to look back at its history, pinpointing some of the highlights across the years...

Winter 2009

The PATHS project
(Positive Alternative to Hatred and Sectarianism) helped tackle the issue of anti-social behaviour amongst young people in Derry-Londonderry who had grown up in communities emerging from years of sectarian conflict.

Spring 2010

The €8.3m **Termon shared space** officially opened, promoting cross-community interaction between the twin villages of Pettigo, in County Donegal and Tullyhommon, in County Fermanagh.

Autumn 2012

President Michael D. Higgins officially opened the £3.2m, 30-acre, multi-activity, **Castle Saunderson Scouting Centre** in Cavan.

Winter/Spring 2013

A £12m, **50,000 sq ft science park facility** at Fort George in Derry-Londonderry was announced, including a 20,000 sq ft extension to the CoLab facility at Letterkenny Institute of Technology.

Spring 2016

The SEUPB officially announces the opening of funding calls for the **PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes**.

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Summer 2017

The new **SEUPB corporate website** is launched.

Winter/ Spring 2018

In November 2017 the SEUPB were proud to deliver a two-day, **showcase exhibition** in the European Parliament in Brussels.

Autumn/ Winter 2019

The **SEUPB celebrated 20 years** with a special feature looking back over some of its key project's and achievements.

Spring 2020

The SEUPB delivered **16 PEACE PLUS stakeholder engagement events** across the border counties of Ireland and in all of the counties in Northern Ireland, with over 1,000 people attending.

Summer 2021

A special featurette looked at the **impact of the COVID-19 pandemic** on a number of stakeholders, from beneficiaries to project staff.

CROSS-BORDER LGBT+ YOUTH SERVICE GROUPS JOIN FORCES TO ENGAGE IN OPEN DIALOGUE



Dundalk Outcomers LGBT Support Service and Cara-Friend LGBT+ Youth Service in Belfast, came together for the first time in early 2021 to take part in a six-month cross-border project, which concluded in August.

The project is supported by Louth Meath Education Training Board and Louth County Council through the Small Grants Programme that forms part of Louth County Council's €3.5m Local Authority Action Plan (LAAP).

Bernardine Quinn, manager at Dundalk Outcomers explained that the Open Dialogue Project brought together two LGBT+ youth groups from Dundalk and Belfast “to engage in open dialogue, looking at peace and reconciliation and to explore the history of the North of Ireland, the troubles and where the LGBT+ community fits into that history.”



Young participants from Cara-Friend and Outcomers LGBT support service enjoying the residential at Share Village, Fermanagh.

Largely taking place online via Zoom and Discord, the two youth groups were able to meet face-to-face, under COVID restrictions, participating in workshops and events in both Belfast and Dundalk.

“The need for this project emerged when it came to our attention that some of our young people had a fear of attending Newry Pride. There were questions about why there was trouble in the north and what it was about. Even though the Troubles in Northern Ireland had ended a long time ago, there seem to have been some skewed views and some misinformed opinions. Very few of the young people had friends from Northern Ireland or from the Protestant community.”

“Dundalk Outcomers set about rekindling old relationships with LGBT+ groups in Northern Ireland and found a perfect fit with our activities and our ethos in Cara-Friend. After some chatting we decided that it would be great to bring these two groups of young people together in order to create a new dialogue for the future.”

After only two meetings the young people are making new friends and sharing their experience and showing (as we expected) that all of us have more similarities than differences and share anxieties around our sexuality and gender identity. As we look to the future, we see that the Open Dialogue Project is going to create long lasting friendships and more informed opinions and great memories for all involved.

**Bernardine Quinn
Manager at Dundalk Outcomers**

Also discussing the project, was Sadie Ward McDermott, LMETB's Director of FET, who said: “This is an excellent opportunity for LMETB to fund projects which educate participants, as well as the wider community, on the important issues affecting youth on both sides of the border.”

Louth County Council's LAAP aims to bring communities from all walks of life together, representing a major economic boost for the area. In total, seventeen peace-building programmes will be delivered.

MATCH-FUNDING

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

HEALTHCARE PROJECTS MIDWAY REPORT



The €5.6m ONSIDE project (Outreach and Navigation for Social Inclusion and Digital Engagement) has reached its halfway point and to mark some of its achievements it collated a summary report.

**For a copy of the
full report**



The summary report outlines some of ONSIDE's key achievements to date, as well as the challenges faced as part of the COVID-19 pandemic and a look towards future activity.

ONSIDE was developed to address the social isolation often experienced by disabled people and seeks to improve the life outcomes of people with disabilities living in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland through increasing their social and digital involvement in the community.

I feel much more independent in using the tablet and would be more open to joining other online groups. I would never have thought about joining a reading group before but I think I would enjoy it!

Project Beneficiary

SOME OF THE KEY EVENTS TO DATE INCLUDE:

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 3 December 2020

Hosted by the Department of Communities and Disability Action NI, ONSIDE presented at a special Zoom event, elaborating on its efforts to make digital communication accessible to all and highlighting how the digital divide is a very real issue for disabled people.

Staff Appreciation Day 2 February 2021

To acknowledge the care and dedication that ONSIDE staff demonstrated with participants during the three COVID lockdowns, the project held a staff appreciation day, bringing the project board and staff together via Zoom to say thank you for their huge effort.

Volunteers' Week 2020 June 2021

To celebrate, ONSIDE ran a social media campaign 'Unlocking the Internet in lockdown' which gave volunteers a platform to tell their stories of volunteering.

**For more information on
the ONSIDE project**

MATCH-FUNDING

Departments' of Health, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

RENEWABLE ENGINE PROJECT SHORTLISTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS GREEN GOWN RESEARCH AWARD



The €6.1m, INTERREG VA funded, Renewable Engine Project, led by South West College, was recently announced as a finalist in this year's UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards (which recognise Excellence in Sustainability during Extraordinary Times).

The College is the only further education college on the island of Ireland to make the shortlist and will compete with institutions including Lancaster University, London College of Fashion and University of Portsmouth for the Research with Impact – Institution prize.

Since the programme's launch in January 2017, Renewable Engine has facilitated direct knowledge transfer, technology development and innovation in 10 industrial enterprises, ranging from micro-SMEs to large multinationals, creating new jobs in green industries and sustainable initiatives.

The programme provides partner enterprises with access to academic expertise and has to date, awarded €350,000 in technology development grant funding.

Dr Alistair Quinn, Renewable Engine Programme Manager noted how thrilled the team were with the recognition, adding: "Renewable Engine exists as a unique cross-border platform bringing together research institutes across the

areas of Advanced Manufacturing and Sustainable Development. Through direct industry collaborations with organisations, ranging from micro-SMEs to large multinationals, we have been able to create significant impact within the Renewable Energy sector, affording businesses across the programme area the opportunity to access world-leading academic expertise and research facilities."

Winners and highly commended entries will be announced at the Green Gown Awards Ceremony to take place later in the year.



SHARED READING PROGRAMME TACKLING ISOLATION AND LONELINESS DURING LOCKDOWN



The Listen, Share, Change (LSC) project aims to promote positive relations amongst 52 estates across Northern Ireland, celebrating cultural diversity and promoting community cohesion by supporting tenants to live, learn and socialise together; free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

Each week, a team of trained neighbourhood champions deliver LSC sessions to over 20 community groups. Verbal's shared reading model is used to bring people together to listen, laugh and have a conversation through short stories and share experiences with participants of different backgrounds.

To date, it has benefitted 1,425 participants and successfully adapted its services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“By successfully increasing the accessibility of our online platform we were able to create 24 targeted digital groups and reach 438 participants across Northern Ireland during the initial COVID-19 lockdown period,” said Carol Hegarty, LSC Programme Manager.

The project was also able to deliver the programme to new groups, thanks to the support of an incredibly dedicated team of volunteers.

Participants in the project said it allowed them to remain in contact with people during lockdown, with one describing it as a “blessing” and another as a “lifeline” at a time when they were unable to see family.



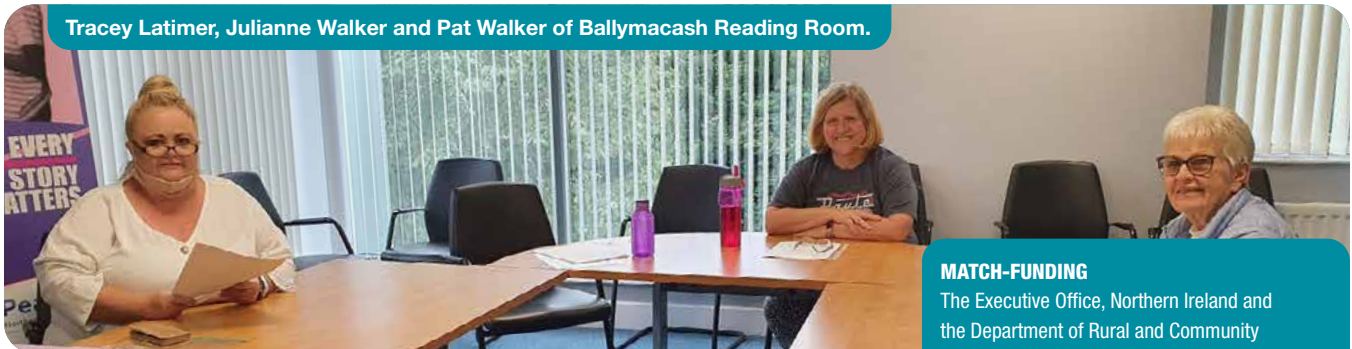
Knowing how much this programme meant to our participants and the emerging need to tackle isolation and loneliness, we set our focus on launching a Digital LSC Programme. With some additional training and support we were able to launch LSC Digital, enabling our participants, both old and new, to join in and enjoy the Reading Room experience from their homes.

Carol Hegarty LSC Programme Manager

Furthermore, LSC has delivered 120 digital tablets to community groups across Northern Ireland which will allow an additional 240 people to take part this year.

**For further information
on the project**

Tracey Latimer, Julianne Walker and Pat Walker of Ballymacash Reading Room.



MATCH-FUNDING

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



“When I first came to m-power I was physically and emotionally ruined. With m-power, I felt strong and I could be a voice. Everything in my life was changing, my mental stability was getting stronger and I could stand on my own two feet and to be honest, I couldn’t believe the person I was turning into.”

Project Beneficiary

ACHIEVING POSITIVE RESULTS AND CREATING REAL CHANGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Nine Northern Ireland YMCA clubs and one YWCA have been involved in delivering the €3.5m m-power project since 2017.

The m-power project incorporated engagement between YMCA clubs in Belfast; Lisburn; Monaghan; Newcastle; Derry-Londonderry; Carrickfergus; Larne; North Down; Portadown and Lurgan.

A relational, youth focused programme, it achieved positive results and created real change for young people who face, and continue to face, numerous challenges and struggles.

As well as being presented with opportunities, challenges and hope, young people made deep social and emotional connections.

This was particularly true for those at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, violence or dissident activity; as well as those struggling within education, training or employment.

m-power also worked with young people with poor mental ill health and physical disabilities, including those with autism and high functioning autism.

Participants were able to celebrate the project’s achievements as part of a special, socially-distanced closure event in June 2021.



m-power achieved positive results and created real change for young people who face, and continue to face, numerous challenges and struggles.



MATCH-FUNDING

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

TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME CONFERENCE IN SLIGO

The Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme's (NPA) annual conference, 'Redefining Peripherality', will take place on 27 October and will be a hybrid event, with the in-person session taking place in The Model, Sligo, Ireland.



Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme
2014–2020



EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future
European Regional Development Fund

You can follow and share all event updates on social media, #NPA2021Sligo

The event will look at the recent developments in the NPA, including the transformative changes triggered by the pandemic, and how NPA projects have, and can, address such changes within the future programme.

The conference will provide the opportunity to discuss how the perception of the periphery has changed and initiated, or accelerated, changes for example ways of working, living, providing services and taking decisions.

The benefits of cooperation across Arctic and near-Arctic regions emerged during the past period, showing how the exchange of knowledge and expertise between the regions played a key role in building response capacity and preparedness for the future.

2021 also marks the transition between the NPA 2014-2020 programme, and the beginning of the next Interreg NPA 2021-2027 Programme. The conference will look at the 2014-2020 achievements, as well as introduce the vision and funding priorities of the new programme.

PEACE POEM

Two Sloping Pillars

*Two sloping pillars,
Leaning in to listen,
A handshake and a promise,
Never to let the undertow take us anywhere but forwards.*

*Whether it's the clattering of pram wheels,
Or the stagger home.
Arm in arm after last orders,
There as two steel needles,
Pulling thread tight enough for us all to walk on.*

*Two sloping pillars,
A handshake and a promise,
That if you wave on one bank,
I'll wave back,
We can meet in the middle, and talk.*

BY PAUL CONNOLLY

Paul Connolly is a musician, lyricist and BBC radio panellist from Derry. Front person of the rock band Wood Burning Savages (twice winners of the Northern Ireland Music Prize), Paul also works across Northern Ireland delivering arts engagement projects with the Nerve Centre in Derry-Londonderry.

PROGRAMME SUMMARIES AND THE SEUPB CONTACTS

PEACE IV

The €270m PEACE Programme 2014-2020 is a unique Structural Funds programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

The Programme's key objectives are:

- Shared Education
- Children & Young People
- Shared Spaces & Services
- Building Positive Relations

The eligible area for the Programme is Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland (counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo).

For further information on the PEACE IV Programme contact:

Joint Secretariat Omagh,
Tel: +44 (0) 28 8225 5750
E: omagh@seupb.eu or Belfast,
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660
E: info@seupb.eu

INTERREG VA

The €283m INTERREG Programme 2014-2020 has been designed to address many of the developmental problems which are exacerbated by the existence of borders, in order to build upon opportunities for enhanced economic and social development across the region.

The Programme's key priorities are:

- Research & Innovation
- Environment
- Sustainable Transport
- Health

The targeted eligible area is Northern Ireland, the border counties of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo) and Western Scotland (Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland, and South Ayrshire).

For further information on the INTERREG VA Programme contact:

Joint Secretariat,
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Tel: + 353 (0)47 77003
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INTERREG VB Transnational Programmes

The SEUPB has a role supporting the development of projects submitted to any of the INTERREG VB/VC Programmes.

These programmes are:

The Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme

This €56million ERDF programme aims to help peripheral and remote communities in the northern regions of Europe to develop their economic, social and environmental potential. The programme area involves parts of Finland, Ireland, Sweden, Scotland, Northern Ireland in cooperation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. SEUPB is the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland.

The North West Europe Programme

This €370 million ERDF programme aims to help make this new region more competitive, environmentally friendly and cohesive by improving access to more and better jobs, enhancing the environmental qualities of the region, improving accessibility and ensuring that cities and rural areas are attractive and sustainable. The programme area is France, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland Luxembourg Belgium and Switzerland. The SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role. The Atlantic Area Programme

The programme aims to achieve progress on transnational co-operation that is geared towards cohesive, sustainable and balanced territorial development of the Atlantic Area and its maritime heritage. The programme region covers all of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and those regions within Portugal, Spain, France and the UK that border the Atlantic Ocean. The SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role.

INTERREG EUROPE Programme

The €359 million ERDF INTERREG VC Inter-regional Programme is aimed at local and regional authorities. It focuses on the identification, analysis and dissemination of good practices by public authorities in order to improve the effectiveness of regional and local policies.

Co-operation projects are eligible across all 28 EU states, plus Norway and Switzerland.

For further information on VB and VC Programmes, contact:

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