

# YOUR EU!

An update on the European Union's PEACE and INTERREG Programmes  
AUTUMN 2017



## €13.9m of EU Funding Offered to Help Heal Division



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The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. The Body was established on 2 December 1999, under the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland (8 March 1999), which created the implementing bodies.

The Special EU Programmes Body's principal function is to provide the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat functions for the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Territorial Co-operation Programmes (2014-2020). It also has a signposting and supporting role for projects wanting to engage with the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Inter-regional Programmes.

Your EU! ISSN:1750-6700 Published by the Special EU Programmes Body  
[www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)

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This magazine is printed by Impro Printing Ltd.

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# Welcome to the Autumn edition of Your EU!

**We are almost at the end of 2017 and it has been a challenging and exciting year for both the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes.**

We have seen a large number of applications approved and have worked very hard to achieve almost 90% commitment for INTERREG VA and 70% for PEACE IV.

Over the last few months I have had the pleasure of attending project launches for both the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes, including the 'North West Transport Hub' and the 'Co-Innovate' programme.

Recently we announced a funding award of €13.9m for 13 regional projects under the PEACE IV Programme. This investment will help people from different communities and backgrounds to live, learn and socialise with each other. You will hear more about these projects in future editions of Your EU.

Over the next five years, the regional PEACE funding will support a number of initiatives that will encourage greater levels of community cohesion and contact on a cross-border basis.

Projects include: the 'Crossing Borders Breaking Boundaries' initiative which will help address the discrimination faced by EU and non-EU migrants and the 'Youth Action NI' project which will bring

together 12 cross-border youth organisations with an estimated 10,000 participants (aged 15 – 25 years) benefiting from good relations and peace-building skills.

In this edition we have a special feature on one of these projects - the Irish Football Association's 'Sport Uniting Communities.' This project will positively promote community relations and cultural diversity through sport. Previously, the PEACE Programme has supported a number of sport orientated projects aimed at fostering greater levels of social integration and combating sectarianism.

Over the past few months I have also taken part in some very interesting events, discussing the experiences of PEACE and INTERREG projects. These have included an event in Brussels investigating the impact of EU Cohesion Policy and a local conference highlighting the excellent cross-border health & social care projects that are supported under the INTERREG VA Programme.

There has also been some notable developments under the INTERREG VB and VC Programmes, which are the Transnational and Inter-regional strands of the INTERREG Programme. This edition talks about



the PLACE - EE and SENDoc project, which has been awarded €3.7m of EU funding and will focus on improving the lives of older people in remote and rural areas. It also includes details on the innovative GenComm project, led by Belfast Metropolitan College.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy this edition of Your EU and I would welcome your feedback or comments on its content.

**Gina McIntyre**  
Chief Executive, SEUPB

# EU Invests €23.5m in New Cross-Border Transport Hub

**€23.5 million worth of funding from the EU's INTERREG VA Programme has been awarded for the creation of an iconic new multi-modal transport hub for the North West that will increase the number of people using public transport for cross-border travel.**

The project will involve the refurbishment of the existing Waterside Station in Derry - Londonderry into a new multi-modal hub with a new train terminus. The hub will contain bus stands, a 'park and ride' facility, a passenger waiting area, retail units and a community space.

The project has been designed to improve connectivity in the North West through the development of co-ordinated cross-border bus and rail services operating between Derry and Ballybofey, Carndonagh, Greencastle and Letterkenny as well as private services operating between Derry and Cockhill, Greencastle, Moville and Galway.

It will also support 'active' cross-border travel through the provision of bicycle parking, bicycle hire and repair services, lockers and changing facilities for cyclists as well as a new greenway link that will connect the new transport hub to the existing Urban Greenway Network.

Discussing the project SEUPB CEO

Gina McIntyre said: "This project will help meet one of the core objectives of the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, supporting investment in more sustainable transport provision for our growing population. Upon completion, the hub will lead to greater cross-border connectivity and encourage more people to make more 'active' journeys either by foot or on a bicycle."

Also discussing the project was Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Shane Ross T.D. who stated: "This project will provide an impetus and focus for sustainable transport in the North West of this Island. We all need to make greater use of public and sustainable transport modes and this new Hub will greatly assist in that regard. The integration of walking and cycling into the hub is particularly welcome."

He continued: "I look forward to seeing progress on this project and the associated Greenways in counties Derry and Donegal in the coming years. It is more important than ever that we continue working on cross-border projects to ensure freedom of movement of the people on this Island."

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) is the Lead Partner for the delivery of the project alongside a number of other project partners including Translink, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Sustrans,

the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and Donegal County Council.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in Ireland.



**Pictured announcing €23.5 million worth of funding from the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme for an iconic new cross-border multi-modal transport hub for the North West are John Glass, Head of Projects with Translink, Gina McIntyre Chief Executive Officer with the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and Peter May, Permanent Secretary with the Department for Infrastructure.**

# €16.6m Research and Innovation Project Officially Launches

**The €16.6m EU INTERREG VA Programme funded 'Co-Innovate' project was officially launched in August.**

The project will help develop the capacity of over 1,400 SMEs (small and medium enterprises) and micro-businesses involved in cross-border research and innovation collaboration within Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland (including Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, Sligo) and parts of Western Scotland.

Co-Innovate will give companies the tools and tailored support needed to help businesses innovate, differentiate and compete successfully by delivering 469 separate innovation audits to support new products and process development. It will also provide access for up to 70 'innovation interns' to help implement enhanced R&I activity.

Welcoming the funding, Dr Andrew Cormick, Permanent Secretary for the Department of the Economy said: 'I'm a firm believer in the power of innovation to act as a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity. With Co-Innovate, we have a unique opportunity to drive innovation capacity among our small and medium enterprises.'

He continued: "SMEs are

fundamental to the economy in Northern Ireland, representing 75% of our private sector turnover and employment; significantly more than for the UK as a whole. Co-Innovate will provide practical assistance to our SMEs enabling them to work towards turning innovative thinking into noticeable results which will generate a tangible legacy for years to come."

The project will bring together the three regions' key development agencies to deliver a programme aligned with each government's strategic priorities, led by InterTradelreland in partnership with Enterprise Northern Ireland, East Border Region, Local Enterprise Offices in the Border Region, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Speaking at the launch, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, said: "The Co-Innovate project will allow the region to make a significant contribution to the achievement of the European Union's 2020 target of increased investment in research and innovation."

"The region, as a whole, is still characterised by low levels of innovation activity. Cross-border co-operation can however be used to help address this issue, by encouraging new partnerships between business and relevant



**Attending the Co-Innovate Launch Event are (l-r); Heather Humphrey's, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; Neil Ryan, Co-Innovate Programme Director and Gina McIntyre, CEO SEUPB.**

research institutions. By working together through the Co-Innovate project, on a cross-border basis, participating businesses will become 'innovation active' and thereby more competitive and profitable."

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland, the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

# €13.9m of EU Funding Offered to Help Heal Division

**SEUPB's CEO, Gina McIntyre recently announced the allocation of €13.9 million worth of EU funding, under the Regional Level objective of the PEACE IV Programme, for 13 projects that will help people live, learn and socialise with each other free from prejudice and hate.**

Many people living across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland are subject to high levels of racism and sectarianism.

Whilst a lot of meaningful progress has been made, the region is still developing its capacity to overcome the divisions of the past. This funding will aim to support PEACE efforts throughout Northern Ireland and across the border.

Outlining the importance of the announcement Gina McIntyre commented: "Each of these projects will have a regional-wide impact in terms of building positive relations between people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds. Collectively they have the potential to make a real and positive difference to the lives of tens of thousands of people and their families."

Gina went on to note: "Through these projects the EU is underlining its commitment to reinforcing peace and stability across the region."

Over the next five years the funding

will support a number of initiatives that will encourage greater levels of cross-community cohesion and contact, on a cross-border basis.

Projects supported under the call will pay particular attention to minority groups and other groups who have traditionally been marginalised by society.

One such project will be the 'Crossing Borders Breaking Boundaries' initiative developed by the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI). This initiative will help address the discrimination faced by EU and non-EU migrants living across the region. The project will conduct detailed research into issues

which prevent the migrant population from accessing the labour market and fully integrating into society.

Another notable project is the 'Youth Network for Peace' initiative, led by Youth Action NI. The project is designed for young people aged 15-25 years and will bring together 12 cross-border youth organisations, focusing on the development of good relations and peace-building skills for an estimated 10,000 participants.

Match-funding for the projects has been provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland and the Executive Office in Northern Ireland.



**Pictured (l-r) announcing EU PEACE IV funding for projects that will help tackle racism and sectarianism across the region are CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) Gina McIntyre along with Paddy Boyd from North Belfast and Lisa Black from East Belfast who work with Youth Action NI.**

# Old Ulster Canal Route to be used for New Cross-Border Greenway Project

**The disused Ulster Canal, once a commercially viable passageway for boats from 1842 - 1931, will once again connect Co Monaghan (Smithborough) with Co Armagh (Middletown) via the creation of the new Ulster Canal Greenway Route.**

The extended route will create the first cross-border greenway that will enable cyclists and walkers to commute to work and also use it for leisure activities.

In total, 22km of greenway network will be created and will help attract visitors and drive sustainable economic development in the underdeveloped tourist region.

The project will also actively promote commuter behavioural change through a targeted community engagement programme, which will help reduce CO2 emissions from private cars by 10.25 tonnes annually and deliver health benefits to those making the move to walking and cycling.

Speaking at the official launch of the project the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross TD stated: "This is a wonderful initiative. Greenways connect communities, promote healthier lifestyles and encourage engagement with the outdoors. They also offer active travel opportunities for both pedestrians and cyclists and have proven to be a major attraction for visitors."



**Celebrating the Official Launch of the Ulster Canal project are (l-r); {Back Row} Roisin Moore, Monaghan County Council; Dawn Livingstone, Waterways Ireland; Sharon Keogan, East Border Region; Andrew Grieve, Department for Infrastructure NI; Alderman Elizabeth Ingram, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council; Paul Clifford, Monaghan County Council. {Front Row} Cathy Bennett, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council; Minister Shane Ross, Gina McIntyre, CEO SEUPB and Minister Heather Humphreys.**

Also speaking at the launch was the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys, who noted: "I am delighted that Waterways Ireland, an agency under the remit of my own Department, has agreed to act as the Lead Partner for this flagship cross-border project. The first phase of the Greenway, here in Monaghan, already attracts over 100,000 users per year and has been a fantastic success since it opened in 2014. The further expansion of the Greenway will strengthen cross-border relations by directly linking communities North and South of the border. The provision of this landmark recreational amenity will also provide a huge tourism boost for County Monaghan and the wider border region."

Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB expanded upon these comments,

stating: "When completed this cross-border project will help to encourage more people to get out of their cars and increase the number of cross-border journeys made by walking and cycling, thereby helping to reduce our collective carbon footprint."

"Not only will this produce many benefits for the region, but the project is also making a contribution towards the EU's 'Europe 2020' strategy which has been specifically designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help safeguard the environment," she continued.

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in Ireland.

# Tackling Misconceptions in Sport Project to benefit 20,000 individuals

**The Irish FA, in partnership with Ulster GAA and Ulster Rugby, is aiming to bring people in Northern Ireland together through a new PEACE IV funded initiative – Sport Uniting Communities.**

The Irish Football Association (IFA) is the governing body for football in Northern Ireland and aims to develop, foster and promote football for all. It has 1,200 registered clubs and more than 25,000 players.

Your EU recently caught up with the organisations Director, Michael Boyd, to learn more about the project.

*“Earlier this year, staff at the association met with colleagues in Ulster GAA and Ulster Rugby to discuss the possibility of submitting a joint funding application to the PEACE IV Programme with the aim of using sport to achieve both sporting and wider societal goals. The result of this meeting was the development*



**Michael Boyd: Irish FA Director of Football Development**

*of an ambitious sporting project - Sport Uniting Communities.”*

The project is a collaboration between the three bodies and will utilise football, gaelic games and rugby to promote positive community relations and cultural diversity. It will work with more than 20,000 individuals from differing religious, socio-economic and geographic backgrounds. It will also target clubs in border areas or socially deprived communities. The programme's main aims are to change perceptions and to build sustained relationships.

Research has revealed that sport delivers its most positive impacts on behaviour when it incorporates integrated mentoring, training, volunteering and work experience programmes. Based on this research, the project partners designed a range of activities based on education, training, empowerment and leadership directed to volunteers and clubs.

*“The programme will deliver storytelling workshops designed to tell the story of the sports and the origin of their clubs. The Irish FA will also work with the other two sports to deliver the Game of 3 Halves programme. This sees one game with one football, gaelic games and rugby being played in each period and encourage people to try a sport*



*that is perhaps new or associated with a different community than their own.”*

The Irish FA has a positive track record in building community relations, having previously delivered the Football for All project in 2000 under the PEACE III Programme. Over the last 15 years the project has played a vital role in peace building, breaking down barriers and engaging with those who are socially marginalised.

*“Football for All demonstrated the power of sport in bringing people together and impacting wider social issues. This new, ambitious project builds on that excellent work with this multi-sport delivery approach. It will provide significant benefits such as volunteer development, sharing resources and delivering initiatives such as the Game of 3 Halves.”*

# : Major League Sporting als



*“One of the key themes early in the design of the project was volunteers. Anyone that is involved in sport, or even anyone who has experience in the planning of events understands the importance of volunteers. Often these people are the face of the organisation and fully commit to delivering activities. Their passion inspires others and ensures success.”*

The Sport Uniting Communities project will particularly seek to increase the number of people from marginalised sections of society who engage as volunteers.

*“I think that it is vitally important that we lead from the front and promote increased cohesion and sustained contact between marginalised groups and local sports clubs.”*

The final aspect of the project is the



development of clubs. The 48 clubs that will take part in the programme will be inclusive and welcoming through shared learning, training and capacity building offering a friendly environment for people from different communities.

*“It is our vision that the Sport Uniting Communities project model will result in a significant mind-shift that individual sports are for individual communities.”*

*“This is a significant step forward as there still remains deep rooted problems and misconceptions of the three major sports.”*

*“We are hugely excited about what can be achieved through this PEACE IV funded programme and we are looking forward to working with our partners in Ulster GAA and Ulster Rugby to make a positive impact in communities across Northern Ireland.”*

# Funding Announced for New 3G Pitch Provision

**Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council recently celebrated the announcement of a £750,000 funding award from the PEACE IV Programme to facilitate the construction of a hi-tech Third Generation synthetic sports pitch at St Patrick's College, Banbridge.**

Awarded under the Shared Spaces objective of the Programme, the project will include a full size 130m x 80m 3G pitch with floodlighting, fencing and changing pavilion which will accommodate soccer, rugby and Gaelic games. Once completed the pitch will be operated on a dual use basis with St Patrick's College using it during the day and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council managing the facility for community use.

Speaking at the launch, Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Alderman Gareth Wilson said: "I am delighted to announce the funding that will allow this eagerly awaited project to become a reality for both the pupils and staff of St Patrick's College and residents of the Borough."

"State-of-the-art facilities such as this are essential in promoting health and well-being for young people as part of their educational experience, plus the proposed dual use basis will

allow the council to promote the facility as a valuable leisure and sporting resource for the greater community."

Principal of St Patrick's College, Mrs Roisin Woods, spoke of her delight at the exciting news for the school:

"The entire community at St. Patrick's College is absolutely thrilled at the announcement."

"It is fantastic that we can now further enhance our school building so that pupils can learn and play in

an environment that they truly deserve. The provision of the pitch will enhance our Physical Education and extra-curricular provision and allow us to collaborate more closely with the wider community in Banbridge."

Match-funding for the project has been provided by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and the National Lottery's Sport NI Single Facility Capital Programme.



**Celebrating the new sports pitch are: Front row (l - r): Garret McGinty, Special EU Programmes Body; Lord Mayor, Alderman Gareth Wilson; Conor McCartan, Sport NI; Councillor Declan McAlinden, Chair Leisure and Community Services Committee. Back row (l - r): Catriona Regan, Head of Health & Recreation; John Devaney, PEACE IV; Pupil St Patrick's College; Tony Kearney, St. Patrick's College; Michael Ruddy, Leisure Project Officer and Roisin Woods, Principal, St. Patrick's College.**

# Special Launch Event Marks the Beginning of €9.39m GenComm Project

**Belfast Metropolitan College's Springvale Campus recently played host to the official launch of the North West Europe INTERREG funded €9.39m GenComm project.**

The innovative GenComm project, led by Belfast Metropolitan College, along with nine other EU partners, will develop hybrid hydrogen technology pilots from renewable technologies including wind, bio and solar. The project will play a key role on the international stage and help drive the EU's transformation to a low carbon energy system.

Belfast Met is the first College of Further and Higher Education in Northern Ireland to secure Interreg North – West Europe Programme funding and this is one of the largest EU projects ever secured by a Northern Ireland led partnership.

The project will demonstrate the commercial maturity of hydrogen technologies by implementing three pilot plants, linking the three main northwest European renewable sources: Solar Power, Wind Power and Bioenergy, with energy storage and the main forms of energetic demand: heat, power and transportation fuels.

In attendance at the launch event was the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Nuala



**Attending the launch of the Gencomm project are (l-r); Dr Michel Junker, Keynote Speaker; Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB; Marie Thérèse McGivern and Paul McCormack, Gencomm Programme Manager.**

McAllister; Marie Thérèse McGivern, Principal and Chief Executive of Belfast Met; Interreg North West Europe Programme Director, Mr Ruut Louwers and Gencomm Project Manager, Paul McCormack.

Speaking at the launch, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "SEUPB are pleased to have supported this project from its inception. The project represents one of the most significant investments from an INTERREG VB Transnational

Programme to a partnership within Northern Ireland."

"This is a critically important project which will contribute to the energy independence of small isolated communities in Northern Ireland and throughout the programme's eligible region. It will do this through a collaborative partnership at the transnational level which will work to develop solutions to common challenges and this is the very essence of an INTERREG Project."

# Personalised Medical Care is Focus for €8.6m Ulster University Research Project

**Ulster University recently announced an award of €8.6m from the EU's INTERREG VA Programme which will help establish a 'Centre for Personalised Medicine, Clinical Decision Making and Patient Safety'.**

The pioneering research is some of the most exciting and advanced research in personalised medicine currently being undertaken globally.

The project will improve patient care and outcomes and develop tools that will improve clinical decision making, benefitting tens of thousands of patients and helping to dramatically reduce healthcare costs in Northern Ireland, Ireland and internationally.

The cross-border collaboration on this project is between the academic, clinical and commercial sectors and will focus on emergency surgery, heart disease, acute kidney injury, diabetes and dementia.

Detailing the importance of the project Professor Tony Bjorson, Professor of Genomics at Ulster University, said: "Currently 30 per cent to 50 per cent of patients don't respond to the treatment they are prescribed and this number is much higher for some diseases. Not only will the Centre improve the health of

tens of thousands of people and develop more cost-effective healthcare, it will create innovative products and new optimised care pathway tools which will attract investment and contribute to economic growth."

"The key strength of this project is that it is driving personalised medicine discoveries to the front line to help clinicians make better clinical decisions and improved treatment outcomes for us as patients."

Welcoming the project, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB stated: "This project is a unique EU funded cross-border partnership that has the potential to revolutionise patient treatment and care for serious medical conditions. It represents a significant leap forward with research that can help create a more efficient and effective health service in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland."

"Research undertaken by these renowned health and life sciences organisations, involved in the project, will also make a positive contribution towards the European Union's 2020 target of increasing investment in Research and Innovation activity."



**€8.6m of EU INTERREG VA Programme has been awarded to support the 'Centre for Personalised Medicine' project which will dramatically improve clinical decision-making and tailored patient care in five priority disease areas (emergency surgery, heart disease, acute kidney injury, diabetes and dementia).**

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland and the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland.

# North West Manufacturing Project Launches

**The €8.5m EU INTERREG VA funded 'North West Centre for Advanced Manufacturing' project recently celebrated its official launch with a special opening ceremony in Lead Partner Catalyst Inc's 'Innovation Centre', Derry.**

The cross-border collaboration project will bring together eight companies and four academic institutions that will deliver 15 world leading research projects as part of an 'Advanced Manufacturing Super Cluster', with the potential to generate thousands of high level jobs in Ireland and the eligible region.

Addressing the invited delegates, Norman Apsley, Chief Executive of Lead Partner Catalyst Inc, explained that the five year investment would deliver global products and processes that could be licensed throughout the world.

Mr Apsley noted: "Advanced manufacturing is the future and in our economy we need more globally competitive products and processes. This investment enables industry to collaborate with academia at an earlier stage while minimising their risk."

"The opportunity to be at the leading edge of this research will improve their competitiveness as well as the potential to create more high value jobs in the knowledge economy



**Pictured at the Launch of the North West Manufacturing project are (l-r); Dr Paul Vance, Randox; Heather Cousins, Department for Economy; Gavin Killeen, NuPrint; Mayor Maolíosa McHugh, Derry City & Strabane District Council; John Greer, Director Joint Secretariat SEUPB; Professor Eileen Harkin-Jones, Ulster University and Professor Norman Apsley, Catalyst Inc.**

— which has a benefit for the economies of the three jurisdictions."

As part of the project, NuPrint Technologies of Derry/Londonderry and the James Watt Nanofabrication Centre at the University of Glasgow will be working on a leading-edge initiative that could improve the safety of vulnerable patients by providing new conductive labelling on prescription medicines to address the problem of medication errors.

Another ambitious initiative under the project will be in the food sector, where sensors could be incorporated into packaging to ensure food has been kept at the right temperatures during transportation.

Speaking about the EU funding, Gina

McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB stated: "This €8.5m investment is testament to the EU's commitment through the INTERREG VA Programme to enhance Research and Innovation capability in the region."

"The project is a tremendous example of cross-border co-operation, with the collective strengths of the project partners set to drive competitiveness, develop new products & processes and strengthen the regional economy."

Match funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland, the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland and the University of Glasgow.

# ADHD Project Celebrates €2.7m of EU Funding

**The Changing Lives Initiative, featured in the last edition of Your EU, recently held its official launch event in celebration of the €2.7m of INTERREG VA funding it received.**

Attending the launch Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB spoke about the importance of the project to the Programme reflecting: “This is an excellent and much needed project which will directly benefit young people and families affected by ADHD, on a cross-border basis.”

“Best practice early interventions will be delivered by way of new and innovative partnerships across Northern Ireland, Scotland and Ireland, reflecting one of the key objectives of the INTERREG VA Programme - which is to improve the health and well-being of citizens by improving access to health and social care services in the most appropriate setting to their needs.”

The Changing Lives Initiative aims to pilot a new and innovative ‘parenting programme’, developing an early intervention service for families with a child (3-7) with patterns of behaviour consistent with hyperkinetic disorder – a pre-diagnosis of ADHD.

Initiatives will include: an information and awareness programme for 2,000 families, a screening

programme for 1,400 families and a special 20 week ‘Incredible Years ADHD Parent Programme’ for 560 families.

Also speaking at the launch was Aileen O’Donaghue, CEO of Clondalkin Behavioural Initiative Ltd - Archways Ireland, who said: “The Changing Lives Initiative was borne out of an identified need. International best practice for treating ADHD recommends parent education and training programmes as the first line of treatment, but this option is not

available to many families who are in need of support.”

“This programme will have a profound impact on families with young children who are experiencing behaviours consistent with ADHD, in helping to improve their quality of life”.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Departments of Health, in Ireland and Northern Ireland.



**Gina McIntyre, CEO of SEUPB and Mairead McGuinness MEP with members of the Steering Group and Project Staff at the launch of The Changing Lives Initiative at the Carrickdale Hotel, Dundalk on the 6th November**

# €1.8m EU Funded Project Supporting People with Sight Loss Launches

**The Royal National Institute for the Blind recently held a ceremony to celebrate the launch of the ‘Need to Talk’ project, which was awarded €1.8m of EU INTERREG VA Programme funding.**

The project will provide cross-border counselling services and confidence building programmes for people affected by sight loss, addressing the social and emotional distress which it can cause.

Speaking at the launch event Amanda Hawkins, Lead for Counselling and Emotional Support, RNIB noted: “For anyone affected by sight loss, the impact can be devastating; they may be worried about the future and the changes they are facing. This project will support people with sight loss who are socially isolated, in emotional distress and includes those living in rural locations.”

The project will afford individuals with the opportunity to discuss their feelings with someone outside of their family and friends circle.

It will provide this support via free counselling and confidence building for people across Northern Ireland, Western Scotland and the border counties of Ireland. The project will support people of all ages, including



**Pictured at the launch of the Need to Talk project are (l-r), Amanda Hawkins, RNIB, Paul Sheridan, SEUPB and John Delaney, Fighting Blindness.**

children and young people (11 years plus) and those who are supporting a person with sight loss.

Counselling will be delivered not just face-to-face but through a variety of technical methods, from email and text alerts to video conferencing via a computer, tablet or smartphone – affording the individual the opportunity to ‘chat live’ with their counsellor.

An online digital ‘Confidence Building Programme’ will explore a range of topics covering mobility and daily living; emotional support and wellbeing; eye health and peer support. In addition, individuals can opt to join a confidence building group to discuss issues facing them.

Commenting on the funding award Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: “I am delighted that this innovative project has been awarded funding from the INTERREG VA

Programme. Having had the pleasure of meeting people who will benefit from this service, I know what a real and tangible contribution it will make to the lives of many people, who are experiencing varying degrees of sight loss.”

“This cross-border project represents a unique partnership between leading sight loss charities based in Northern Ireland, Ireland and Western Scotland, who by working together, will be able to provide much needed support to people living in rural areas. This project will contribute to one of the objectives of the EU’s INTERREG VA Programme- that of providing quality health and social care for people who are socially isolated,” she continued.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Departments of Health, in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

# Celebrating Council PEACE IV Local Action Plan Launches

Over the last couple of months the SEUPB has been busy attending the launch of a number of PEACE IV Local Action Plans (with more still to come).

These Action Plans help create new partnerships that ensure the continuation of meaningful peace and reconciliation activities. In previous Programmes, local authorities were instrumental in ensuring the successful delivery, and in this current round of funding, will continue to ensure that the funding reaches the places where it is needed most.

This bottom up approach is one of the key features of the new PEACE IV Programme - supporting the active role of people, communities and voluntary organisations in the decision making which directly affects them.



## Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

In attendance at Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's €3.1m PEACE IV Funding Launch are (l-r); Councillor Noreen McClelland, PEACE IV Chairperson; Valerie Adams, PEACE IV Vice-Chair; Councillor Paul Hamill, Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey; Gina McIntyre, CEO SEUPB and Majella McAlister, Director of Community Planning and Regeneration.



## Monaghan County Council

Launching the €3m Monaghan County Council PEACE IV Local Action Plan are (l-r); Paul Clifford, Monaghan County Council; Niamh Smyth TD; Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin TD; Gina McIntyre, CEO SEUPB; Heather Humphrey's, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Cathy Bennett, Cathaoirleach of Monaghan County Council.



## Leitrim County Council

**Brenda Hegarty, Programme Manager SEUPB, addressing the crowd at the launch of Leitrim County Councils €1.7m PEACE IV Action Plan.**



## Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

**Representatives of the PEACE IV Partnership, along with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Mayor, Tim Morrow and Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, attending the launch of the €2.4m of PEACE IV funding.**



## Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

**Attending the launch of the Mid & East Antrim €2.7m PEACE IV Action Plan are (l-r); John Greer, Director of Unit Joint Secretariat, SEUPB; Anne Donaghy, Chief Executive Mid & East Antrim Borough Council; Paul Reid, Mayor Mid & East Antrim Borough Council; Kerry Morrison, Good Relations, The Executive Office and Maureen Morrow, Chairperson Mid & East Antrim PEACE IV Partnership.**



## Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

**Celebrating the PEACE IV Programme funding award of €3.5m at Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council are: Brenda Hegarty, Programme Manager SEUPB; Joan Baird OBE, Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council; Kerry Morrison TEO, Joan Dallat and Maurice Bradley, local MLA's and members of the PEACE IV Partnership.**

# Renewable Energy Project set to Transform the Global Energy Industry

**INTERREG VA Programme funded project, Spire 2 (Storage Platform for the Integration of Renewable Energy) recently held a special launch event to celebrate its €6.5m funding award which will help deliver a 'Virtual Research Graduate School' in the area of Mass Energy Storage (MES) and develop a range of wide-scale mass renewable energy storage devices to meet current, and future electricity market needs of the global energy industry.**

This cross-border project will develop energy usage scenarios to help better understand what size such storage systems need to be to meet rising demand.

The project will also generate understanding and commercial possibilities for wide scaled mass energy storage to contribute to renewable energy targets beyond 2020.

Spire 2 follows in the successful footsteps of the first Spire project, which received funding under the previous INTERREG (IVA) Programme, and helped establish the likely future value of energy storage as a variability management mechanism for the Single Electricity Market. Research and scenario modelling provided the basis for a business case for the first Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES) facility in

Europe – which could be optimised for the integration of high levels of variable renewable generation. This had a significant demonstrator impact for CAES projects under consideration, not just in Europe but worldwide.

Speaking at the launch event, CEO of the SEUPB, Gina McIntyre discussed the INTERREG Programme's involvement in the project:

"Approximately €71.6 million has been allocated to increase the level of Research and Innovation on a cross-border basis across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland."

"SPIRE 2 will help meet some of the European Union's current, and future

renewable energy production targets – which form part of the Renewable Energy Directive. The Directive requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its energy needs through the use of renewable sources by 2020."

Also present at the launch were Professor Neil Hewitt, Ulster University, Chris Stewart, Department for the Economy Northern Ireland and Bob Hanna, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland and the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland.



**Pictured at the Spire 2 launch event are (l – r): Lead Professor Neil Hewitt, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Technologies at Ulster University; Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Impact) Ulster University and John Greer, Director Joint Secretariat SEUPB.**

# Ulster University Secures €3.7m of EU Funding to Improve Health Outcomes for Older People in Rural Locations

**With an investment of €3.7m from the Northern Periphery and Arctic 2014 – 2020 Programme, the Ulster University is set to lead on two major international research projects that will focus on improving the lives of older people in remote and rural areas by improving access to technology and social connectedness.**

The first project, Platforms for Ageing Community Engagement - Exchange and Enterprise (PLACE-EE) will seek to develop low cost, transnational solutions to improve the health and well-being of older, isolated people in remote rural areas through innovative approaches to social inclusion.

This will include helping older citizens to understand and exploit digital technology for their health and social wellbeing and, creating a range of digital solutions to the challenges identified by older people.

The second project, Smart Sensor Devices for Rehabilitation and Connected Health (SENDOc) will assess the technical, clinical and social acceptability of early stage and market-ready wearable technologies and their impact on patients, on healthcare delivery and on rural communities.

Speaking about the funding awards,

Gina McIntyre CEO of the SEUPB reflected: "We are delighted that our work is guiding Ulster University. Having spent over 18 months advising on the application requirements of the Programme it is very rewarding to see these successful funding awards and we wish them every success."

"Both of these inspiring projects will not only answer some of the challenges facing remote communities across the Northern Peripheral regions of Europe, but will help to cement and promote future collaborative partnerships between key organisations that are working to improve the health outcomes of older people in rural locations."

Leading the PLACE – EE project, Professor Gerry Leavey, Director of the Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing, said: "This project will identify and connect local, cultural knowledge and other resources with innovative ICT approaches that will enable social inclusion and timely and efficient advice, support and care. We want to foster intergenerational skills, exchange between older and younger citizens and empower older people through creative and cultural activities."

Dr Joan Condell, senior lecturer in the School of Computing and Intelligent Systems in the Department

of Computing and Engineering at Ulster University will lead the SENDoc project. Speaking about what it will accomplish she noted: "SENDOc will focus on changing existing rehabilitation programmes by introducing the use of wearable sensor systems in ageing communities in northern remote areas."

"These sensors have the potential to support independent living." Reflecting upon both projects Dr Condell stated: "What is particularly significant is that the partnerships will bring together technicians, clinicians, associated expert and service providers from around the world to engage with patients, citizens and communities to address these challenges."



**Professor Joan Condell and Professor Gerry Leavey pictured at the launch of the PLACE – EE and SENDoc projects, which have been awarded grants from The Northern Periphery and Arctic 2014-2020 Programme.**

# Programme Summaries and 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 Region 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 Region of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo) and western Scotland (Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland, and South Ayrshire).

### For further information on the INTERREG VA Programme contact:

Joint Secretariat,  
Monaghan.  
Tel: + 353 (0)47 77003  
E: monaghan@seupb.eu or

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## INTERREG VB Transnational Programmes

The SEUPB has a role in promoting North/South participation in the relevant INTERREG VB Transnational 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 €396 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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