

YOUR EU

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

INTERREG IVA Programme
VITAL Project Launch

PEACE III Programme
NEP Peace Conference

Real Life Interview
ASPIRE Project Graduates

News & Info
Sensory Engagement Project



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 - 2013
Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



**Northern Ireland
Executive**
www.northernireland.gov.uk



Welcome

WELCOME

Project News

- Page 4 Irish Churches Peace Project Launch
- Page 5 VITAL Project Launch
- Page 6 NEP PEACE Conference
- Page 7 'Give an Hour to Nature' Campaign

Real Life Interview

- Page 8-9 ASPIRE Project Graduates

News & Info

- Page 10 SEP Project Closure
- Page 11 BIDS Update
- Page 12 Tellus Border Conference
- Page 13 'Common Cents' PEACE Conference
- Page 13 The Challenge of Change
- Page 14 Bric Project Update

Project News

- Page 15 Inter-Regional (NWE Conference)
- Page 16 Traveller Traditions Brought to Light
- Page 17 iOTA Project
- Page 18 Sharing our Space
- Page 19 INIS Hydro

YOUR EU!

The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel 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 Technical Secretariat functions for the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Territorial Co-operation Programmes (2007–2013). It also has a signposting and supporting role for projects wanting to engage with the INTERREG IVB Transnational and INTERREG IVC Inter-regional Programmes.

Your EU! ISSN:1750-6700 Published by the Special EU Programmes Body www.seupb.eu
To submit ideas, material and photographs for the next issue, please e-mail communications@seupb.eu
For additional copies of Your EU! or to be added to the database to receive an electronic copy contact us by e-mail at communications@seupb.eu

Editorial and Production Management:
John McCandless
Copy Writing: John McCandless

Design: www.l-s-d.com
This magazine is printed by Print Library.

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact SEUPB.



Foreword

Season's greetings for the winter edition of Your EU!

This edition reflects back on some of the successes of the past year as we move closer to the end of the current programming period.

It also highlights some of the new projects which have been launched under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme and details progress on many of the initiatives funded under PEACE III.

Recent project launches under INTERREG IVA include the enterprise focused VITAL and iOTA programmes. Both have been designed to increase the levels of innovation that exist within small to medium sized businesses on both sides of the border.

We also catch-up on the work of some of the Peace Partnerships, which have collectively supported hundreds, if not thousands, of small local community focused projects, over the life-time of the PEACE III Programme.

Many of these Partnerships have been co-ordinating celebration events and conferences in recognition

of the work that has been achieved in building positive community relations at a local level.

In this edition we take a look at some of the more established INTERREG IVA funded projects including the INIS Hydro seabed mapping initiative which has made significant headway over the past year.

We also learn more about the 'Sensory Engagement Programme' which has helped hundreds of visual and hearing impaired citizens access public services that most people take for granted.

As the clock goes back over the winter months we are encouraging people to enjoy the outdoors and 'Give an hour to Nature' as part of the Action for Biodiversity project. This is a great initiative which has been designed to highlight how being environmentally conscious can have a positive impact on our personal health and well-being.

This edition also provides details on the launch of a new PEACE III funded reconciliation initiative which is being delivered through a unique partnership between the



Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, alongside the Church of Ireland and the Irish Council of Churches.

Work on new programmes for 2014-2020 is still continuing apace and we are currently aiming to complete the public consultation in the New Year. For more updates on this consultation please check our website or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

As always I welcome any comments, thoughts or feedback you may have on this edition of Your EU.

Pat Colgan
Special EU Programmes Body

FOREWORD...

Irish Churches launch new Peace Project

PROJECT NEWS

A new £1.3 million EU funded project between four Irish churches has been launched to help promote good relations and reconciliation work at a grassroots level across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Called the 'Irish Churches Peace Project' (or ICCP) the initiative represents a unique partnership between the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, alongside the Church of Ireland and the Irish Council of Churches.

At the launch event the Director of the project Keith Hamilton explained its key

objectives in more detail; "ICCP has been set up to promote reconciliation in our communities through the churches working together. We are working for the transformation of Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland with the vision to build a peaceful and stable society, with a better and shared future."

The ICCP project has been designed to support localised peace and reconciliation work by supporting churches involved in cross-community integration activities.

"We are helping local inter-church and cross-community groups to develop

new initiatives that will contribute to lasting peace. In all we do, we try to model positive cross-community co-operation that will help consign sectarian division to the past," continued Keith.

In each of the areas that the project will operate it will identify levels of segregation, marginalisation and social isolation. This will be compared against existing church-led initiatives within these areas to see what additional resources are needed to expand upon the work that is already taking place.

The project will also provide enhanced mediation support to help resolve local contentious issues between the Protestant and Catholic communities and will develop a directory of good relations and reconciliation resources for use by churches.

It is also committed to creating and publishing case histories of effective good relations, reconciliation and peace work involving local churches.

For more information on the ICCP go to www.iccp.info.



Pictured (l-r) at the launch of the project are Presbyterian Moderator Dr Rob Craig, Church of Ireland Primate, Archbishop Richard Clarke, Methodist President Dr Heather Morris, Project Director Keith Hamilton, President of the Irish Council of Churches, Rev Fr Godfrey O'Donnell and Archbishop Eamonn Martin representing Cardinal Brady.

EU Funds Business 'Match-Making' Project

Approximately £2.5 million has been awarded under the INTERREG IVA Programme to create a new business match-making initiative called the VITAL Project.

Based in the Dundalk Institute of Technology's Regional Development Centre the project aims to screen more than 600 business ideas and 'match-make' the most promising ones to experienced entrepreneurs or small to medium sized businesses (SME's).

These entrepreneurs and SME's will then bring to bear their professional expertise and resources to help turn some of the most successful business ideas into a commercial reality. The project will operate on a cross-border basis and involves Queen's University, Belfast and Dublin City University.

The 600 business ideas identified initially will be filtered down to 160 with recognised commercial viability. Of these 160 ideas it is anticipated that, as a minimum, 30 will be matched to existing SME's and seasoned entrepreneurs, to act as business 'implementers'.



Director of the VITAL project Kieran Fegan speaks at the official launch event in Narrow Water Castle, Warrenpoint.

Speaking at the launch of the project, VITAL Director Kieran Fegan, said: "We want to hear from individuals from throughout the region and beyond who believe that they have good ideas, but don't currently have the time, expertise, knowledge or networks to make them happen."

Through the project business ideas will be sourced from a wide-range of sources including inventors, practitioners, patent databases and international licensing opportunities.

The VITAL project will provide assistance by fast tracking promising business ideas

to market through the use of one-on-one mentoring, consultancy support, access to market knowledge and priming funding, as required.

Welcoming the initiative Lorraine McCourt, Director with the SEUPB said: "This is a truly innovative cross-border project which bridges the gap between a great business idea and its commercialisation. It will accomplish this by providing a holistic suite of business support interventions that will enhance the competitiveness of all participants."

To register your interest or learn more about the project go to www.vitalforideas.com.

PROJECT NEWS...

Peace Conference showcases success of EU Funding

The North East PEACE III Partnership which represents eight separate local authorities based in the North East of Northern Ireland recently held a 'Celebration Conference' to highlight the positive impact that EU funding has had upon the lives of local people.

Over £7.7 million has been spent on a wide-range of different peace building projects supported through the North East PEACE III Partnership. In total approximately 3,500 local people have participated in these projects including youth, disabled, sporting and local farmers groups.

UTV presenter Paul Clarke acted as master of ceremonies for the 'Celebration Conference' which featured first hand

Children from Ballymena Polish Saturday School perform at the event.



Brenda Hegarty, Programme Manager with the Special EU Programmes Body speaks at the Conference.

testimonies from many young beneficiaries of the PEACE III funded projects.

This included participants in the 'Young People's Peer Leadership' project as well as pupils from Castle Tower and Sandelford Special Needs Schools who took part in the Schools Based Project.

The conference delegates heard some very personal accounts of the young people including Richard Swann, who talked about his educational trip to the First World War battlefields in Messines where he learnt about how Catholic and Protestant soldiers fought alongside each other.

Children from the Ballymena Polish Saturday School gave a musical performance at the

event and were joined on stage by local singer and songwriter Paddy Nash.

Speaking during the conference Patricia O'Brien, Manager of the North East Partnership, congratulated all of the programmes participants.

"The EU funding, that we have received, has been used to challenge attitudes and provide the space for people to come together, explore their differences and talk about their prejudices and fears. Only by doing this can we create a more tolerant, trusting and peaceful society," said Patricia.

For more information on the work of the North East Partnership go to www.nepni.eu.

Give an Hour to Nature Campaign Launched

A new INTERREG IVA funded environmental campaign was launched recently to coincide with the clocks going back an hour in preparation for the winter months.

Called 'Give an Hour to Nature' it is part of the Action for Biodiversity project which has been designed to encourage local communities and local authorities to become more pro-actively involved in environmental protection practices.

Talking about the campaign, Abby Sherry, Project Officer

for Action for Biodiversity, said: "It's all too tempting to spend extra time in bed when the clocks go back, but we think it's far too early to start hibernating for the winter. The weather at the moment is crisp and fresh and perfect for getting the family together to head outdoors and enjoy the rich variety of animal and plant life on our doorstep."

With approximately £0.8 million worth of EU funding, the Action for Biodiversity project is a three year cross-border initiative which aims to raise awareness of the importance of nature conservation.

It will develop a cross-border Biodiversity Framework for the region to encourage local councils, communities and businesses to produce and implement plans for the protection of priority habitats and animal species.

"There is an estimated 271 species in danger of extinction in Northern Ireland, mostly due to humans expanding into their natural habitats. By building a pile of leaves in your garden for hedgehogs to live in or putting out a bird house or bug box you could help conserve endangered native species and protect them for future generations," continued Abby.

The Action for Biodiversity project will provide funding for over 80 different localised nature conservation projects which will prove that a healthy species-rich environment is also one which supports healthy communities.

To find out more about the different locations, venues and projects supported by the Action for Biodiversity project within your area, go to www.actionforbiodiversity.eu.



The 'Give an hour to nature' campaign aims to encourage people to spend their 'extra' daytime hour getting outdoors and enjoying nature.

PROJECT NEWS...

Real Life Interview – EU helps graduates Aspire to success

A new cross-border INTERREG IVA funded programme is helping talented graduates secure work placements and jobs across the region.

Called ASPIRE it is being managed by the East Border Region Ltd with Banbridge District Council acting as the project's lead partner.

Offering great advantages for local employers and graduates alike, the ASPIRE Programme is proving extremely popular at a time when most students leaving university are unable to reach that first rung on their career ladder.

To date the programme has created 45 jobs for students

and has received additional funding to create 15 more. Jim McEneaney applied to join the ASPIRE programme after hearing about it from a friend. He had just completed a Master's Degree from Dublin City University and was looking for a job in an exciting company with long-term career prospects.

"I know a lot of people that can't find jobs here and are leaving for the United States and Canada to get work. It's very difficult for most students when they leave university to get a decent well paid job when they don't have that much experience," said Jim. After being accepted onto the programme Jim was able to secure a paid placement

in a marketing role with leading sports science firm, 'STATSports'.

Combining his own personal passion for sport as well as his studies in marketing, the placement has proven to be a great fit.

"I was lucky enough to get a placement with a great company that matches my sport obsession with my studies in marketing and e-commerce," said Jim. "STATSports' is a sports technology firm. It works with elite sportsmen and women to help improve their performance and prevent injury through the use of sophisticated GPS technology. This technology is built into specially designed vests, which can monitor your heart rate, speed, distance and individual energy usage," he continued.

Under the ASPIRE programme graduates are able to apply for positions with participating companies across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. Their progress is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they are making a positive contribution to the company.

"I have a 12 month placement with 'STATSports' and have a

ASPIRE Graduate
Jim McEneaney



“I have been able to learn a lot in a short space of time and whether I am able to stay with the company or not, the experience I have gained will prove invaluable.”

detailed work plan to complete while I am there. I also have an independent marketing mentor who reviews my work and provides strategic advice and guidance, as needed.

“This has been really useful as I can discuss my ideas with him and hone my skills,” continued Jim.

All of the ASPIRE graduates are given hands on management experience and are actively encouraged to test

and implement their own ideas.

“As part of my job I was able to recruit some interns to help with one of my projects. Not only did I interview them but I was put in charge of their day-to-day management. This has been great experience and has taught me a lot,” said Jim.

Jim is just a quarter of the way through his placement but hopes to be able to stay

on with the company after it is over.

Looking to the future he said: “I have been able to learn a lot in a short space of time and whether I am able to stay with the company or not, the experience I have gained will prove invaluable.”

For more information on the programme go to www.aspireprogramme.com



Sensory Engagement Project Completes

A project designed to support people with hearing and sight loss on a cross-border basis has just completed with fantastic results.

Called the 'Sensory Engagement Programme' (SEP), the project has provided a wide-range of support services for over 600 people who are blind, partially sighted, deaf, or live with some other form of hearing loss.

The project has helped improve access to public services for people with

sensory impairments by directly engaging with libraries, colleges and banks. By offering the frontline staff of these institutions free deaf and visual awareness training it has made their services more accessible for all.

During its delivery SEP supported Southern Regional College and Londonderry Central Library in achieving Models of Excellence and 'Louder than Words' awards in recognition of their efforts to support people with sensory impairment.

However the key legacy of the project is the creation of a free digital training toolkit. The toolkit features video clips of

personal testimonies outlining some of the challenges faced by blind and partially sighted people when accessing everyday services, that most people take for granted.

For more information on SEP go to www.sensoryengagement.com

EU Supports Public-Private Partnership

Enhanced co-operation is needed between businesses and public bodies in order to create more dynamic town centres. This is the rationale behind the INTERREG IVA supported Business

Pictured (left-right) are Barry Macaulay, RNIB NI, Maura Craig, Libraries NI, Ann Marie Houston, Toolkit Participant, Gavin Woods, Aurion Learning and Sue Benham, Toolkit Participant at the launch of the SEP Digital Training toolkit.





Pictured (l-r) are Terry Robb, Ulster Bank; Willie Alexander, Wellington Gifts Ballymena; Martin Blackwell, ATCM Chief Executive and Gwyneth McQuiston, Chair of Coleraine Town Team.

For more information on the project contact Roisin O'Neill at email: roisin.oneill@ballymena.gov.uk

Earth's Precious Treasures are Revealed

Many rare earth elements (or REE's), including potential gold deposits, have been discovered thanks to a new survey revealed by the EU funded Tellus Border Project.

The results of the survey were outlined at a special conference, held in Monaghan and attended by the Irish Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Fergal O'Dowd TD.

Under the survey, naturally occurring materials involved in the creation of mobile phones, computers, MRI scanners, wind turbines and hybrid cars were for the first time traced in the Mourne Mountains.

These elements are currently only produced by a small number of European countries with China having the majority share of the global market.

The new find in the Mournes, as a result of the INTERREG IVA funded study, is anticipated to attract further scientific interest and will advance scientific understanding of REE deposits, internationally.

Following the previous Tellus project in Northern Ireland, results showing precious

Improvement District or B.I.D's project which was the focus of a recent conference held in Ballymena.

Five partner towns based in Ballymena, Coleraine, Larne, Sligo and Ayr were represented at the event. Each is involved in partnership work which is giving local businesses a greater say in how their high streets are managed and promoted.

As part of the B.I.D's project the five towns will implement projects such as marketing and promotion, business support initiatives and

performance monitoring tools such as electronic football counters.

Lead administrative partner on the project Anne Donaghy, Chief Executive of Ballymena Borough Council, said: "This message of public-private co-operation is a vitally important one. Giving local businesses a greater say in determining and planning the future of their commercial centres is an important aspect of creating a sustainable and thriving town centre. The creation of a B.I.D in Ballymena offers a unique opportunity to enhance our local offering."



Kate Knights, Tellus Border Project geochemist is pictured alongside Minister Fergus O'Dowd, TD.

metals including gold, platinum and base materials such as zinc and nickel led to a surge in mineral exploration licence applications, with investment in the sector estimated at £32 million.

With the new results emerging from the current Tellus Border survey this investment level is set to increase further as cross-border licenses are sought, attracting international exploration companies to the region and boosting economic development.

For more information on the project go to www.tellusborder.eu

Peace III makes 'Common Cents'

A number of economics experts, policy makers and local community groups met in Monaghan recently to discuss the positive impact that the PEACE Programme has had on the regional economy.

Called 'Common Cents: Your Gains from PEACE', the conference took place at the Hillgrove Hotel and is part of the Embedding Peace Building project, delivered via the Monaghan PEACE III Partnership.

During the event a panel of community leaders reflected upon how people in the border region have benefited from the peace process and the correlation between

economic opportunity and social stability. The panel also discussed some of the areas where further PEACE funding could make a critical impact in Monaghan.

Talking about the event, Joe Shiels, PEACE III Development Officer with Monaghan County Council, said:

"It is 15 years since the Good Friday Agreement signalled a move towards a normalised border region and in that time funding from the EU has helped to deliver significant transformations across Monaghan. This event was about looking at the gains that have been made and asking how life and the economy can be further improved."

The event was hosted by Jim Fitzpatrick, former BBC Economics Editor and

included interventions from Ruth Tallion, Director of the Centre for Cross-Border Studies; Sadie Bergin from CAWT (Co-operation and Working Together) alongside John Kearney from Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board.

For more information on the Embedding Peace Building Project go to www.MonaghanPeace.ie

The Challenge of Change

Delivered under the Southern PEACE III Partnership the 'Challenge of Change' initiative celebrated two years of its

work at a recent showcase event held in Newry on the 22 November. Designed to facilitate greater levels of social inclusion from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities the initiative has delivered a number of separate projects which collectively have helped to tackle racism across the local area.

These projects focused on cultural awareness events for local people as well as comprehensive diversity training to increase the levels of tolerance and understanding of different ethnic groups. Under the initiative, targeted support was also offered to the local BME communities to help them integrate more fully into

society and address some of the obstacles they would face on a daily basis.

A public facing anti-racism campaign was also used to help reduce the number of racially motivated attacks and support increased usage of the PSNI's racist incidents reporting scheme.

A number of BME support groups attended the event alongside special guest speaker Catherine Lynch, former Director of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) Ireland and Diversity Manager at University College Dublin.

At the "Common Cents: Your Gains from PEACE" event on the 22 October 2013 in Monaghan were (from left to right) Ruth Tallion, Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies; Jim Fitzpatrick, former BBC Economics Editor; Fiona Maloney & John Kearney, Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board and Joe Shiels, Monaghan PEACE III Secretariat.



Arts has 'Super' Impact on Community Spirit

PROJECT NEWS...

The brick (building relationships in communities) project has been providing support to a number of local re-imaging initiatives designed to remove graffiti and create a more welcoming environment.

They form part of the projects larger objective of cultivating good relations within communities affected by high levels of sectarian based conflict across the region.

The brick project is co-ordinated by the Rural

Development Council and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive working with a number of local agencies. Recent transformations of local space include a new super hero inspired mural on the Springfield Road in Belfast. The extensive piece was designed by young people from the area and has attracted a lot of positive attention from residents and neighbours.

Another brick initiative has involved the immortalisation of a number of local sporting legends. A previously graffiti



Before and after photographs of the Brandywell re-imaging mural featuring local sporting legends.

Inter-regional and Transnational Programmes

covered wall in the Brandywell area of Derry-Londonderry now features numerous famous sports stars from the city, many of whom secured All-Ireland, Olympic, Commonwealth and even World sporting titles. The extensive work is the result of over six months work by local artist Paddy Nelis and Gareth Doherty.

The brick project is designed to help the Housing Executive put good relations at the heart of its policies and delivery functions.

The project supplies Good Relations and Conflict Management Training to key Northern Ireland Housing Executive staff as well as a large number of local community associations.

It offers financial assistance to local communities who wish to improve their estates and make them more welcoming to all communities.

The project is also conducting research into the patterns of housing market trends, along the Border Region of Ireland, to help promote joint government action on cross-border housing.



The North West Europe Programme held its annual conference in an unusual destination this year; with a covered velodrome in Roubaix, France acting as the setting for the event.

The conference unveiled the NWE Programme's vision for 2014-2020 and included a series of interactive discussion sessions with approximately 500 participants from nine different countries.

Going forward the Programme will focus on three main themes 'Innovation', 'Low Carbon' and 'Resource and Materials Efficiency.' Each theme has a number of envisaged actions to help meet the agreed objective.

Within the '**Low Carbon**' theme there is a commitment to reduce energy poverty across the NWE territories, test and adopt new solutions for 'green' transnational transport systems

and to demonstrate the ability to uptake low-carbon product technologies or solutions.

Within the '**Innovation**' theme there is a commitment to build the innovation capacity of regions and territories, improve the innovation performance and competitiveness of businesses and to deliver the far-reaching societal benefits of innovation to enrich the lives of European citizens.

Within the '**Resource & Materials Efficiency**' theme there is a commitment to optimise recycling processes and technologies, design less material-intensive products and services and encourage the development of more eco-innovation solutions.

To find out more about the conference go to <http://nwe2013.nweurope.eu/annual-event>.

PROJECT NEWS...

Traveller's Traditions Brought to Light

The unique stories and memories of women from a Traveller background have been captured in a special book, called the 'Story Box'.

Designed to raise awareness of traveller culture and traditions the book has been funded through the Lisburn-Castlereagh PEACE III Partnership.

The book is a collaboration between internationally acclaimed young poet Ben Maier, a number of participating Traveller women and the Institute for Conflict Research.

During the books development Ben spent several months with ten women from the traveller community to learn more about their lives and experiences. Commenting on the project, Martin Collins, Director of the Pavee Point, the Travellers' and Roma Centre in Dublin, said:

"For too long Traveller lifestyles have been presented by non-Travellers in a way that does not necessarily provide a respectful picture of either their achievements or the struggles they have faced.

"The little scenes in this book give a flavour of the ways that Travellers in earlier times



Pictured (l-r) Irene Knox with Brigid McCann at the presentation event in Belfast Castle.

adapted with creativity to their circumstances. It has been compiled so that young people from Traveller and non-Traveller backgrounds can appreciate and value their history and way of life," she continued.

The completed book was officially presented by Brigid McCann one of its contributors to Irene Knox, Chief Executive of Libraries NI at a special event held at Belfast Castle. Welcoming the book, Irene said:

"Libraries NI is delighted to accept this very generous donation of 'Story Box' for

every library and mobile library across Northern Ireland.

"We hope that members of the travelling community will call into a local library and enjoy this book, which will also appeal to those interested in finding out more about the culture and heritage of the Traveller community," she continued.

For more information on the project or to access a copy of the book contact Kay Radford at the Institute for Conflict Research on 028 9074 2682 or go to www.conflictresearch.org.uk

The Four Keys to Business Success

A new enterprise development project in receipt of almost £1 million worth of EU INTERREG IVA funding was recently launched in Newry & Mourne.

Called iOTA which stands for Innovation, Opportunity, Training and Advice the project aims to boost the innovation capacity and capability of SME's on a cross-border basis.

Speaking at the launch Councillor Alan McDowell, Vice-Chairman of East Border Region Ltd, said: "The iOTA Programme is an exceptional opportunity for potential new and small to medium sized enterprises in the East Border Region to develop their innovation capacity by accessing skills, expertise and knowledge."

The project offers two distinct business support strands. Within strand (A) potential entrepreneurs will participate in a structured training programme that will focus on harnessing innovation and creativity. This support will help turn a business concept into a viable enterprise.

'Innovation Classes' will also be rotated around the region, to include individual



Pictured (l-r) Aveen McVeigh, iOTA Programme, José Pietri MindShare Consulting, Lorraine McCourt SEUPB, Patricia Mallon iOTA Programme, Jane Magill Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency, Cllr Alan McDowell, Vice Chair East Border Region, Dr Conor Patterson, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency, Pamela Arthurs East Border Region and Sharon Digby East Border Region.

consultations for SME's with specialist Innovation practitioners. These classes will cover essential business focused disciplines such as research and development, market research, exporting and the use of new technologies.

Strand (B) of the project aims to create awareness of how 'innovation' relates to local businesses and will provide support on how firms can expand and grow. Specialist mentors will be provided to help SME's develop their ideas through an Innovation Action Plan.

Delivered via a cross-border consortium led by Newry and Mourne District Council, the iOTA project is open to SME's and micro enterprises based in Ards, Armagh, Banbridge,

Craigavon, Down, Newry and Mourne including North Down and is also inclusive of firms based in Counties Louth and Monaghan in Ireland.

Welcoming the project Lorraine McCourt, Director with the SEUPB, said: "This project represents a significant investment under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme. It will provide some much needed support to micro-enterprises and SME's on both sides of the border, with the overall goal of supporting the development of a more sustainable economy.

For more information on the project contact Jane Magill at Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency on Tel: 028 3026 7011 or go to www.iotaprogramme.com.

Impact of the Sharing our Space Initiative

A new shared-play space supported under the 'Sharing our Space' project delivered by Groundwork NI was officially opened recently in Rasharkin.

Designed to encourage positive relationships between young people from both the local Catholic and Protestant communities the EU funded park was officially opened by the Mayor of Ballymoney, Councillor John Finlay.

Work began on the new development at Drumbolcan Play Park earlier in the year and now a 'kickabout' space, play facility and outdoor gym have been created where young people from all backgrounds can play safely.

Talking about the ideas behind the park, Sylvia Gordon CEO of Groundwork NI and manager of the 'Sharing our Space' project said:

"Transforming spaces and creating shared areas where communities can interact is what our organisation is about and we're very proud of all that's been achieved through the Sharing our Space programme.

"As the initiative draws to a close, local people can see the lasting legacy left to them



Mary Gilmore from the Rasharkin Community Association (left) is joined by Lord Mayor of Ballymoney, Cllr John Finlay to cut the ribbon on the new shared play space in the village alongside Sylvia Gordon (centre) Chief Executive of Groundwork Northern Ireland.

in the form of new and better places and spaces, created from scratch or returned to use for their benefit in an atmosphere of cooperation and shared activity," she continued.

The 'Sharing our Space' project has received approximately £3.1 million under the EU's PEACE III Programme. It is delivered by Groundwork NI, who over the past three years has used its considerable expertise in community development, to work with local people from a diverse range of backgrounds.

A cross-border initiative, the project creates new shared public spaces that have a dedicated purpose. As well

as providing a practical use for derelict or unused sites the project actively promotes and develops effective relationships between communities, thereby contributing to greater levels of peace and reconciliation.

The project is active in Ballynahinch in Co. Down, Newtownbutler in Co. Fermanagh and Castleblaney in Co. Monaghan, while in Belfast, sites at Colin Glen, Blacks Road and Westland are currently under major development.

For more information on the 'Sharing our Space' project go to www.northernireland.groundwork.org.uk.

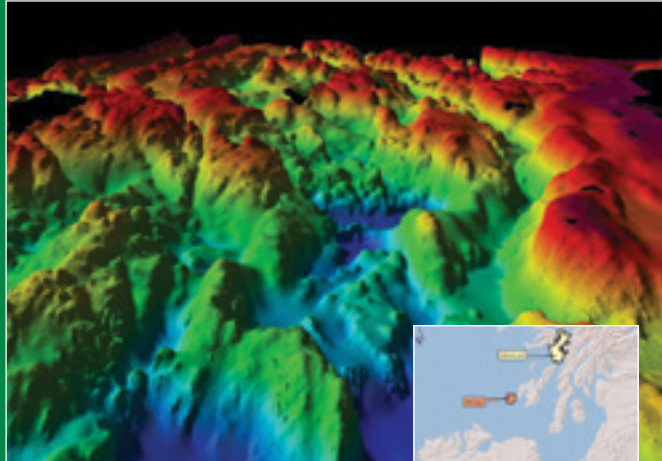
INIS Hydro project nears completion

Reliable maps of the seabed are essential for safe shipping and for effective management and conservation of the marine environment. While terrestrial maps are largely very accurate, seabed maps are much less so.

Many 'current' nautical charts are based on data from the mid 19th century when depth was measured by lowering lead lines to the seabed at wide intervals. So a real need for up-to-date and accurate charts exists.

Over the past three years, a partnership of seven organisations, have been working together to fulfil this need and create a high resolution bathymetric (underwater topography) map of 1,400 km² of seabed in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The project has been supported with approximately €4 million from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme alongside the Department of the Environment, the Natural Environment Research Council, the Northern Lighthouse Board and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.



The data collected from the survey will be made freely available by the end of March 2014 and will include a wealth of information on seabed depth and sediment data.

This data is currently being processed by the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office to update nautical charts and publications in Scottish, Northern Irish and Irish waters to improve the safety of mariners.

The survey has uncovered some interesting finds including 13 new shipwrecks. The information contained within the survey also supported the successful search for a tragically sunken fishing vessel off the coast of Scotland.

The project surveyed the world's third largest whirlpool area in the Gulf of Corryvreckan, a popular, yet dangerous, destination for marine adventure and wildlife tourism. During this process it discovered that what was long-suspected as the central 'pinnacle' of the whirlpool was in fact a steep-sided buttress.

INIS Hydro will showcase and celebrate its mapping achievements and explore the future uses of the gathered data at a special event to be held at the Titanic Belfast at the end of the year.

For more information on the project go to www.inis-hydro.eu.

PROJECT NEWS...

Programme Summaries and SEUPB Contacts

PEACE III

The €333 million PEACE III Programme 2007-2013 is a distinctive European Union Structural Funds Programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation. Building upon lessons and good practice gained from previous PEACE Programmes, it specifically focuses on two Priorities:

- Reconciling Communities and
- Contributing to a Shared Society.

The eligible area is Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo).

For further information on the PEACE III Programme contact:
Joint Technical Secretariat
Omagh,
Tel: +44 (0) 28 8225 5750
E: omagh@seupb.eu or Belfast,
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660
E: info@seupb.eu

The Consortium
Community Relations Council
European Team
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9022 7500
E: european@nicrc.org.uk or Pobal,
Tel: +353 (0)1 5117500
E: enquiries@pobal.ie

INTERREG IVA

The €256 million INTERREG IVA Programme 2007-2013 aims to support strategic cross-border territorial co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region.

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).

The Programme's two key priorities are:

- Co-operation for a more prosperous cross-border region, and
- Co-operation for a sustainable cross-border region.

For further information on the INTERREG IVA Programme contact:
Joint Technical Secretariat,
Monaghan.
Tel: + 353 (0)47 77003
E: monaghan@seupb.eu

Caroline Coleman, National Contact Point for Scotland, Scotland
Europa, 150 Broomielaw,
Atlantic Quay, Glasgow G2 8LU.
Tel: +44 (0) 141 228 2202
E: Caroline.Coleman@scotent.co.uk

INTERREG IVB Transnational Programmes

The SEUPB has a role in promoting North/South participation in the relevant INTERREG IVB Transnational Programmes.

These programmes are:

- **The Northern Periphery Programme.**
This €45.2 million 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 co-operation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. SEUPB is the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland.
- **The North West Europe Programme.**
This €355 million 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

This €104 million 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 IVC Inter-regional Programme

The €302 million INTERREG IVC 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 27 EU states, plus Norway and Switzerland.

SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role for North/South participation in this programme.

For further information on IVB and IVC Programmes, contact:
Helen Donaldson at the SEUPB Belfast office:
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6723
E: helen.donaldson@seupb.eu

Special EU Programmes body
info@seupb.eu
www.seupb.eu

Belfast
7th Floor,
The Clarence West Building
2 Clarence Street West
Belfast BT2 7GP
Northern Ireland
T: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660

Monaghan
M:Tek II Building
Armagh Road
Monaghan
Ireland
T: +353 (0) 477 7003

Omagh
EU House
11 Kevlin Road
Omagh BT78 1LB
Northern Ireland
+44 (0) 28 8225 5750