**2.3 PEACEPLUS, PROGRAMME AREA SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

**PRE-APPLICATION SUPPORT CONCEPT NOTE**

This concept note is a preliminary means for potential applicants to express an interest in Investment Area 2.3 (Programme Area Skills Development) of the EU PEACEPLUS Programme prior to the formal call for applications.

The key objective of Investment Area 2.3 is to: *“address existing and emerging skills gaps, leading to equal access to inclusive and quality services and increasing cross-border labour mobility.”*

In submitting this concept note, potential applicants will receive guidance on their project proposal prior to submitting a formal application. Please provide as much detail as possible in the boxes below.

**Please note:** This concept note is not part of the formal application process. However, applicants are encouraged to avail of this service as it will offer valuable guidance in advance of the funding call opening which begins the formal application process.

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| 1. **Project details**
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| **Project name***(And acronym–if any)* |  |
| **Lead Partner / Applicant** |  |
| **Project Overview**(*Provide a brief description of your project) (200 words maximum)*  |  |
| **Project Location**(*Include full address and postcode / eircode where available)* |  |
| **Target Area**(*Indicate the approximate geographical area which will benefit from the proposed project)* |  |
| **Estimated Project Start Date**  |  |
| **Estimated Project End Date**  |  |
| **Indicative Funding Requested** *(in Euros)* | € |
| **Indicative Target Beneficiary Numbers***(Estimate how many people will benefit from this project)* |  |
| 1. **Partnership**

Please list all proposed project partners and outline their role on the proposed project. (Additional partner fields can be added as required).  |
| **Lead Partner** |  |
| **Partner 1** |  |
| **Partner 2** |  |
| 1. **The Project** *(Please refer to guidance notes below before completing.)*
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| **(i) Tell us how the need for this project has been identified and how it aligns with the stated aims and objectives of Area 2.3 of PEACEPLUS.***(500 words maximum)* |  |
| **(ii) Tell us about your project’s anticipated outputs and results.***(300 words maximum)* |  |
| **(iii) Describe how your project is cross-community and cross-border.**(*300 words maximum)* |  |
| **(iv) Please demonstrate how your project will not result in duplication or displacement of existing provision?***(300 words maximum)* |  |
| **(v) Outline the quality of the proposed team, partnership and implementing arrangements.***(300 words maximum)* |  |
| **(vi) Tell us how your project offers value for money.***(300 words maximum)* |  |
| **Budget required** |

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| Direct Staff Costs *(Include administrative, finance and communications positions)* | € |
| Programme Costs | € |
| Office and Administration Costs (overheads: funded at a flat rate of 15% of direct staff costs) | € |
| Travel & Subsistence Costs (T&S: funded at a flat rate of 7% of direct staff costs) | € |
| **Total Budget** | **€** |

Please attach a budget breakdown. |

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| 1. **Contact details**
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| **Name of Main Contact Person & Job Title/Organisation** |  |
| **Telephone** |  |
| **Email** |  |

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| **Any additional questions for SEUPB / what advice would be beneficial at this stage in your project development process?** |
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| **FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY** | CN no:Date received: |

**Thank you for telling us your project idea, now what?**

Forms should be submitted no later than **5pm on August 3rd 2023.**

The sooner you complete and return the form, the sooner you will be able to access pre-application support which may help you in project development activity.

Please email the completed form / any questions on how to complete the form to: myriam.fearon@seupb.eu

Your completed concept note will be reviewed, and a response provided in no less than **15 working days** from the date of submission. If the application shows promise, further meetings may be scheduled with you directly.

**Guidance Notes on Completing Section 3**

**Investment Area 2.3 Programme Area Skills Development**

Theme 2.3 of the PEACEPLUS Programme will support area-based approaches, designed to address evidenced skills gaps, which will result in increased productivity and employment and higher levels of cross-border labour mobility. The PEACEPLUS Programme will build on best practice area-based models of skills development.

The Programme will enable cross-community and cross-border collaboration between education and training providers which reduce duplication and maximise the capacity of the Programme area to address existing and emerging skills gaps, and opportunities for reskilling.

Building on the strategic priorities of the Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in Ireland and their agencies, the investment in Programme area Skills Development will:

* Support the provision of strategic cross-border skillspartnerships in further education / higher education institutions (including joint programmes) in key disciplines such as ICT and digital, STEM, the green economy, entrepreneurship and leadership and management.
* Promote the uptake of apprenticeships in key areas e.g., ICT etc.;
* Support the establishment of cross-border structures modelled on best practice; and
* Support the delivery of cross-border schemes in re-engagement with employment / upskilling to reduce the percentage of economically inactive and those in employment sectors at risk of automation changes;

It is expected that Programme Area Skills Development will result in a minimum of 8,000 participants completing joint training schemes.

Outputs which will ensure the achievement of this result will include:

* 5 strategies and action plans jointly developed.
* 10,000 participations in joint training schemes.

Project proposals should be developed to ensure a contribution to the achievement of these outputs and results.

The following sections outline the key issues which should be considered against each question in section 3. The Project.

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| 1. **Tell us how the need for this project has been identified and how it aligns with the stated aims and objectives of Area 2.3 of PEACEPLUS.**
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| Supported projects will span a number of specific actions as follows: * **Area based skills strategies:** Development of cross-community and cross-border strategies, aimed at risk reduction to employment sectors, subject to job displacement through technological development, including the development of innovation and entrepreneurship in the Programme area.
* **Clusters for sub-area skill gaps:** Schemes which enable area based cross-community and cross-border clusters to respond to the sub-area skill gaps and requirements (including reskilling and upskilling).

The above actions will be complemented by a range of activities as outlined below:* Schemes which maximise the delivery of cross-border partnerships by further and higher education providers to minimise duplication of resources.
* Development and delivery of joint educational programmes administered by cross-border partnerships where possible, to minimise the duplication of education provision and ensure alignment with evidence-based education, which will address recognised skills gaps and requirements.

Supports which address the barriers to participation in skills development programmes, particularly by marginalised and disadvantaged groups. Programmes should be designed to improve the working conditions[[1]](#footnote-1) and employment prospects of minority groups.To demonstrate the need for your project and how it aligns with Area 2.3, please consider and explain, for example:1. How need / demand has been identified for your project?
2. How does your project align with what PEACEPLUS, and Investment Area 2.3, is trying to achieve? In particular, what contribution will your project proposal make towards **building peace and prosperity** as well as the addressing existing and emerging skills gaps, leading to equal access to inclusive and quality services and increasing cross-border labour mobility?
3. The extent to which your project has been informed by and or aligns with best practice including:
	1. How the proposal uses available knowledge and builds on existing practice within the sector.
	2. What’s new or innovative about your project?
	3. How your project contributes to EU / National / regional strategy.
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| 1. **Tell us about your project’s anticipated outputs and results.**
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| This objective will address existing and emerging skills gaps, leading to equal access to inclusive and quality services and increasing cross-border labour mobility. It will result in the development of a flourishing Programme area workforce, with skills better aligned to existing and future growth sectors and in line with public policy.To what extent will your project deliver the results and outputs identified for Theme 2.3 i.e. 1. How many participants will benefit?
2. How many strategies and action plans will be developed?

Please note joint project solutions are defined as organisations from at least two countries using the principles of: joint development, joint implementation, joint staffing, joint financing.  |

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| 1. **Describe how your project is cross community and cross-border.**
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| To demonstrate the extent to which your project is cross community and cross- border, for example: 1. What geographical area/s will your project cover?
2. How your project is cross-border on the basis of:
3. Using cross border partnerships
4. Using staff from both sides of the border
5. Using a shared approach/design on both sides of the border
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| 1. **Please demonstrate how your project will not result in duplication or displacement of existing provision?**
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| For example:1. To what extent would your project take place (at all, on a smaller scale, at different quality) without PEACEPLUS funding?
2. How does your project ‘fit’ with existing or planned similar activity? i.e. is your project likely to impact upon and/or complement similar existing, or planned, provision?
3. How will duplication of service, facilities, activities provision be avoided, or mitigated?
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| 1. **Outline the quality of the proposed team, partnership and implementing arrangements.**
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| For example:1. Outline the team / partnership that will manage the project.
2. How they are suitably qualified and experienced to deliver on this project?
3. Has the Lead Partner and/or supporting partners the necessary organisational capacity to manage a multi-annual, large-scale EU project?
4. Have the main project partners worked together in partnership on similar projects in the past?
5. Will you need to secure external technical support to enable project delivery and, if so, what and to what extent?
6. Have you considered the risks that may impact on the ability of your project to deliver its outputs or achieve its full impact and how you will minimise those risks?

 7. How many organisations / partners will be involved in joint project development and implementation? |
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| 1. **Tell us how your project offers value for money.**
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| Economy measures are concerned with showing that the appropriate inputs used in carrying out the project have been obtained at the least cost. In this context, tell us, for example: 1. How you will ensure staff positions are advertised at the appropriate grade, competitive tendering processes applied etc.
2. How you have estimated the budget requested, the key cost elements included in your budget, assumptions applied and how it demonstrates economical use of public resources.
3. How will you ensure the long-term impact of the funded project and what’s your exit strategy?
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1. Working conditions include the organisation of work, training, skills, and employability. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)