



THEME:

Building Positive Relations:
Regional Level Projects

FUNDING(ERDF+MATCH):

€1,198,399.68

MATCH FUNDERS:

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

LEAD PARTNER:

Ashton Community Trust
(ACT)

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Coiste na nIarchimi, Veterans
for Peace, Irish Immigration
Advisors and Belfast Conflict
Resolution Centre

Start Date: 01/10/2018

End Date: 31/05/2021



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SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Building Positive Relations

The Building Positive Relations project aims to impact on communities in areas such as Dundalk; Letterkenny; Derry-Londonderry; Leitrim; Monaghan and Belfast.

The project has included:

- Workshops focusing on Cultural Awareness, Anti-Sectarianism and Anti-Racism);
- Conferences focusing on Peacebuilding;
- Training, counselling and welfare advice.

A major part of the work is reconciling the Republican ex-prisoner community with other sectors in society through dialogue.

"Thank you so much for including my father in your programme. Most people find him a bit of a nuisance. He has come out of his shell from you started calling with him and taking him to things. We didn't think we'd see the old Jimmy back again. Whatever you're doing, keep doing it. He is a changed man! There's a spring in his step and he is a new man."

Daughter of a participant



Speaking at the projects launch, Avila Kilmurray, who addressed the audience at the Balmoral Hotel



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The first year of the project was extremely successful. There have been over 600 participants recruited across each of the regions. Those engaging in the project have spoken highly of the informative and beneficial activities - in particular the project conferences and fourteen project workshops which have taken place to date.

Those participating in the Sustainable Leadership Programme have spoken positively about the knowledge and skills which they continue to learn and which they will be in a position to use in their local communities in the years to come.

"As a former republican prisoner who had 'drifted' I have benefited from the project by engaging in workshops and events, not only with other republicans but also those from other communities. Isolation can be detrimental to mental well-being; these engagements and the regular personal contact we have established have assisted me."

Michael, project participant.



A group of cross-community participants enjoying a cultural awareness workshop site-visit at the Jeanie Johnson Famine Ship and EPIC Emigration Museum in Dublin.

Regional level projects that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities: 1