



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: The Positive Impact of the Next Chapter Project

THEME:

Building Positive Relations: Regional Level Projects

FUNDING(ERDF+MATCH):

€1,453,225.86

MATCH FUNDERS:

The Executive Office & Department of Rural and Community Development, Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Politics Plus

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Irish Rural Link and NI Council for Voluntary Action

Start Date: 01/10/2017

End Date: 30/06/2020

The Next Chapter project established ten 'Chapters' in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland (Belfast; Lisburn and Castlereagh; Mid-Ulster; Enniskillen; Foyle; Newtownabbey; Newry; Cavan; Louth; Monaghan; and Donegal). These chapters were made up of women interested in becoming involved in a locally-based network working on peace, reconciliation and gender-equality in community, public and political representation. The Chapters had the opportunity to meet with their local female political representatives; participate in a social policy consultation event; and develop a community project & vodcast.

Additional Project Outputs

1) Increased competency and capacity of beneficiaries to contribute towards peace and reconciliation

- Five modules of capacity building training and five individual coaching sessions for each Chapter member delivered.
- Improved competency and capacity by beneficiaries from different communities.

2) Increased policy reform and sharing of best practice

- Two Women's Ambassadors Forum Events; Communication Activities; and a Celebration Event.
- Commissioned and published a project evaluation report Added: to evidence the effectiveness of the pilot project model used.

3) Better Understanding of the long-term impact of interventions on supporting gender equality in post-conflict society.

- Commissioned and published a project evaluation report.
- Improved gender-equality in community, public and political representation, including the associated improved effectiveness in peace-building.

4) Increased representation of women in decision-making roles in public and political life in NI and the border counties

- Enabled participants to enter community, public and political life as a result of being involved in the project.
- Improved representation of women in community, public and political life challenging gender inequalities.