

# YOUR EU!

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

INTERREG IVA Programme  
Support for Business

PEACE Conference  
Contribution of EU funding  
Highlighted in Brussels

Northwest Science Park  
EU Funds new Regional  
Science Park

News & Info  
Belfast Hosts Conference on  
Early Childhood and Conflict



Ireland's EU Structural Funds  
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government  
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# Welcome

WELCOME

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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](http://www.seupb.eu)  
To submit ideas, material and photographs for the next issue, please e-mail [communications@seupb.eu](mailto:communications@seupb.eu) or [emilia.ferreira@seupb.eu](mailto:emilia.ferreira@seupb.eu)  
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This magazine is printed by XXXXXXX.

YOUR EU!



# Foreword

Welcome to the most recent edition of Your EU!

In this edition we take a closer look at some of the Enterprise focused projects funded under the INTERREG IVA Programme. The Enterprise theme aims to promote a more diverse and dynamic economy by providing support to new and existing businesses in fostering innovation and encouraging competitiveness. We look at some case studies of businesses that have benefitted from their participation in different funded projects such as Tradelinks II, and Innovation for Competitiveness (ICE). These businesses are varied and include amongst others a producer of a new type of roof rack, a company promoting a new range of Indian sauces and a company specialising in the installation of production machinery.

We also report on a recent conference on the PEACE Programme which took place in Brussels. The conference, organised by the European Commission and the SEUPB, highlighted the contribution of the EU's PEACE Programme to the region. Several PEACE III funded projects presented elements of their work,

giving the mostly Brussels-based audience a first-hand account of how the funding influences people's lives in the region. EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, opened the event which also included interventions from Northern Ireland's First and deputy First Ministers, as well as Brendan Howlin, Irish Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

This edition features a number of updates on projects that have reached significant milestones in their implementation. I would highlight two in particular: the Northwest Regional Science Park and the Termon Project. The Northwest Regional Science Park, a £15 million INTERREG IVA funded project is intended to support the knowledge economy in the northwest area. The Termon Project, on the Fermanagh/ Donegal border, is an £8 million PEACE III regeneration project which will transform two small border villages: Pettigo and Tullyhommon. Construction has recently begun on the main elements of the project.

As the programmes enter their final stage, the SEUPB is working hard to obtain the necessary government approvals, so that we can issue Letters of Offer to all the projects which were approved as a result of the last INTERREG IVA call for applications.

In the meantime, we are working on developing the framework for the future programmes (2014-2020). The results of a consultation carried out by the SEUPB last year have recently been published and are available on our website. I would invite you to take the time to read these. The SEUPB expects to launch a consultation on the draft Operational Programmes later in the year and it would be important to gather the opinions of those involved in EU funding.



As always, I welcome your feedback on the projects and activities featured in this edition.

**Pat Colgan**  
Chief Executive, SEUPB

FOREWORD...



# Brussels Conference Highlights

## Contribution of PEACE Programmes

***“Bringing Divided Communities Together” aimed to highlight one of the European Union interventions in peace-building, namely the PEACE Programme in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. The conference, hosted by DG REGIO, took place in January, in Brussels, and registered around 250 participants, with a further 300 viewing it online through web streaming.***

The launch of the PEACE Programme in 1995 was the direct result of the European Union’s desire to respond positively to new opportunities in the Northern

Ireland peace process during the paramilitary ceasefire announcements. Since then the EU has provided additional financial assistance through the PEACE II Programme as well as the current PEACE III Programme (2007-2013).

The programme features a genuine bottom-up involvement in its delivery and it aims to reconcile communities by creating a shared vision of society, building positive relations at local level as well as acknowledging and dealing with the past.

The centrepiece of the conference was a number of project testimonies from

funded projects providing insight into the work accomplished and the impact that it continues to have on people’s lives. Amongst the projects represented were: *Football For All*, delivered by the Irish Football Association; *Theatre of Witness*, by the Northwest Resource Centre (The Playhouse); and the *Belfast Interface Project*, jointly delivered by Groundwork NI and Belfast City Council.

Interventions were also made by EU Regional Policy Commissioner, Johannes Hahn, by Northern Ireland’s First and deputy First Ministers and by Ireland’s Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin TD.

Alongside the conference, the SEUPB organised an exhibition of PEACE III funded projects that the participants had the occasion to visit at the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels.

First Minister, Peter Robinson MLA, and deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness MLA, who both addressed guests at the reception organised by the Brussels office, also had the opportunity to meet representatives from the different projects.



EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, speaking at the ‘Bringing Divided Communities Together’ conference in Brussels.

Teya Sepinuck, of the Theatre of Witness project, speaking to participants at the PEACE Conference in Brussels ahead of the project performance.

Participants at the Brussels conference watch a video performance of the Theatre of Witness project.



# EU Funded Northwest Science Park

*The £12m EU INTERREG IVA funded project will involve the construction of a 50,000 sq ft science park facility at Fort George in Londonderry and a 20,000 sq ft extension to the CoLab facility at Letterkenny Institute of Technology.*

If both sites achieve maximum occupancy by 2019 the project has the potential to support up to 285 added value jobs directly and add impetus to the creation of a knowledge-based economy in the region. It will also make a significant contribution to the North West Gateway Initiative, which aims to encourage greater levels of co-operation in

economic development from Government Departments on a North South basis.

Commenting on the project, Pat Colgan, Chief Executive with the SEUPB, said: "The high level of European Union assistance, which has been awarded to this cross-border project, is a testament to its potential to enhance the North West economy. Not only will it support the growth and development of a new wave of innovative businesses, but it will also help to create long-term employment opportunities for the region".

The project will construct a commercially and research-

driven centre in Derry to act as a satellite park of the internationally acclaimed Northern Ireland Science Park, based in Belfast. It will also establish a similar centre in Letterkenny which will extend the reach of the NISP into the whole of the North West Business Technology Zone.

Upon completion the project will provide an 'Innovation Eco System' that will enable new and existing technology-based businesses to enhance their competitiveness. It will also help to maximise investment in the EU INTERREG IVA supported Kelvin project which has significantly increased the telecommunications infrastructure of the North West.

Project partners include the Northern Ireland Science Park (NISP) Foundation Ltd, Letterkenny Institute of Technology and the North West Region Cross Border Group (NWRCBG).

Match-funding for the North West Regional Science Park project has been provided by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland.



Pictured (right-left) are Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB; deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness MLA; Joe McHugh TD; Social Development Minister Nelson McCausland and Eugene McMenamin, Chair of the NWRCBG welcoming the £12million funding announcement. Photo: Michael Cooper



# £3.175m Building Peace through the Arts Programme Launched

***Community groups across Northern Ireland and the border areas of the Republic of Ireland wanting to tackle signs of sectarianism and racism within their communities are set to benefit from over £3 million in investment.***

Throughout its implementation, the Building Peace through the Arts - Re-imaging Communities programme will support the delivery of 80-100 community-based projects across Northern Ireland and the border areas, offering grants of up to £15,000 for small projects and up to £50,000 for larger-scale projects.

The programme follows on from the Re-imaging Communities Programme (2007 – 2009) and is of relevance to artists, community and voluntary groups and local authorities with applications encouraged from projects that have a rural and / or cross-border focus. Priorities include projects that are cross-community; inter-community; intercultural; cross-border; targeting youth groups; targeting ethnic minority groups. The funding will support arts projects that promote a shared future and build positive relations within and between communities. It

will enable community groups to employ artists to work with local groups and to create vibrant and attractive public spaces through the use of creative arts.

Of the total project costs of £3.175 million, £1.72 million will be provided under the European Union's PEACE III Programme. Additional contributions are being provided by the International Fund for Ireland and the Arts Council NI.

Welcoming the project, Pat Colgan, Chief executive of the SEUPB, said: "This tried and tested initiative will contribute to the use of the arts in supporting communities to move towards a shared society whilst being able to

demonstrate the many positive elements of their identity. This goal is at the heart of the EU's PEACE III Programme, which aims to promote peace and reconciliation in the region whilst allowing for the expression of cultural diversity amongst the local communities."

Officially launched at the Playhouse Derry/Londonderry by deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness MLA, the Building Peace through the Arts - Re-Imaging Communities Programme is now open for applications.

To find out more, please contact the Arts Council on + 44 (0)28 9038 5228 or visit [www.artscouncil-ni.org](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org).

PROJECT NEWS...



Pictured in the Playhouse, at the launch of the programme are (LtoR): Dr Adrian Johnston, Chairman of IFI; Roisin McDonough, Chief Executive of the Arts Council NI; Northern Ireland deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness MLA; and Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, SEUPB.

# INTERREG IVA Programme Supports Business

***A new support programme for SMEs celebrates £15 million in cross-border sales.***

Tradelinks II, an EU-funded cross-border business development programme, has generated just over £15 million's worth of new sales for firms in the cross-border region. The initiative, which was designed to assist and grow the micro-enterprise sector across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, held a celebration event in September to mark the end of the programme.

In receipt of £3 million from the INTERREG IVA Programme, Tradelinks II, is a partnership initiative delivered by Enterprise NI and the Border County Enterprise Boards in Ireland. The programme's principal aim was to assist 550 micro-businesses on both sides of the border to identify and address barriers to cross-border trade and development. By the end of the implementation phase, the programme had actually supported 580 firms, created over 250 new jobs, and helped secure over 1200 jobs.

Through a combination of business mentoring, research and networking the programme focused on

increasing skills, knowledge, access to information, developing new contacts and new forms of doing business. Particular emphasis was placed in developing cross-border trade opportunities and linkages.

Speaking at the event Jim Higgins MEP, Ireland North West commented: "As a Member of the European Parliament I am delighted to be associated with the Tradelinks II event in celebrating the success of the programme.

The significance of the micro-enterprise, indigenous business sector is of huge importance in re-growing economies right across Europe. In the six border counties of Ireland alone there are an estimated 23,000 registered small businesses and in Northern Ireland micro-enterprises account for almost 88% of all businesses. These figures are typical of the situation right across the European Union and the support that the EU can provide to this sector is typified in programmes like Tradelinks II".

Also speaking at the event, Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body, said: "The Tradelinks

II programme is an excellent example of an EU funded initiative that has created direct benefits for micro-enterprises on a cross-border basis. Designed to help overcome many of the challenges faced by business owners, particularly in today's tough economic landscape, it has enhanced their competitiveness by providing the support and assistance they needed to grow and develop."

The success of the Tradelinks II project will hopefully continue with the implementation of the new Tradelinks II Continuance programme, which has received funding from the INTERREG IVA Programme and has only recently been launched.

For further information contact Kieran Mathers at [kmathers@nmea.net](mailto:kmathers@nmea.net)



# Tradelinks II - Connecting Business, Building Success

PROJECT PROFILE...

*The EU's INTERREG IVA Programme has provided approximately £3m in funding to the Tradelinks II Programme, which supports business development for micro-enterprises.*

Offering a wide-range of support services the programme is managed and delivered by the six Border County Enterprise Boards and Enterprise NI. The following two stories represent some of the businesses it supports.

## **Creating the right recipe for success – 'Aruna' sauces**

Since 2005, Sarah Nic Lochlainn and Sarajit Chanda have been tickling the taste buds of local people living close to their ever popular restaurant 'Fuchsia House' in Ardee, County Louth. The couple's original mission was to change people's perceptions about curry and seduce their palates with authentic family recipes passed to Sarajit from his mother in Bangladesh.

Before long the restaurant was enjoying a roaring trade and demand for their sauces inspired this dynamic duo into entering the 'dining-in' market. Using Sarajit's mother Aruna's recipes they developed a range of five



Sarah Nic Lochlainn and Sarajit Chanda cook up a storm.  
Photo: Michael Cooper.

sauces. Their new brand, simply named Aruna, quickly achieved local and national food and business awards.

In order to capitalise upon this success Sarah and Sarajit contacted their local County Enterprise Board to enquire about any available business training and mentoring support. The Enterprise Board introduced them to the Tradelinks Programme, under which the couple were offered the services of four different business development tutors who provided a SWOT analysis of their business model; market research of the 'dining-in' sector; website design, sales and marketing advice. This led to an introduction of the 'Aruna' brand to LMI Foods Ltd, which

helped to secure a lucrative listing in food distribution outlets including SPAR, Vivo and Dunnes.

Commenting on the support they received through the Tradelinks Programme Sarah, said; "The training and business mentoring advice we received from Tradelinks has been excellent. It helped us to make some crucial contacts, develop our website and gave us a better understanding of the export market".

Looking to the future Sarah said: "In five years time we plan to make our mark within the UK and Irish markets and ensure that our restaurant quality product is on sale in all of the major supermarkets.

# SlideRax – Climbing the Ladder of Success

## PROJECT PROFILE

*Like most successful entrepreneurs Damien Jackson and Declan Campbell started their business on the back of a great idea.*

Declan's personal experience with the difficulties and insurance risks of using conventional roof racks was the catalyst for the invention of an innovative roof rack product that has set new standards in the industry.

Called 'SlideRax' the product has formed the basis of a new business, which allows its customers to dispense with the need for personal safety harnesses and access ladders that are required

by the 'Working at Height' government regulations. Offering guaranteed safety and time savings the product has proved to be a real hit with tradesmen and women, on both sides of the border.

During the start-up phase of the business Damien and Declan contacted the Dungannon Enterprise Centre for some advice and guidance. The centre put them in touch with the EU funded Tradelinks Programme whose mentors helped them to develop the first ever 'SlideRax' prototype.

Speaking about the support Damien said; "The Tradelinks Programme was really helpful. Not only did they

help us to develop a working prototype but they gave us invaluable market research and marketing support. The mentors helped us to create our website and also put us in touch with some distributors in the UK and Ireland. We haven't looked back since."

After successfully developing their product, establishing good working relationships with distributors was the next key milestone for Damien and Declan's business. They have already made some useful local contacts and are currently working on expanding their distribution network with interest coming from as far afield as the Netherlands.

"Now we are becoming more established I want to focus our efforts on production as much as possible. One of our next goals is to increase our staff numbers. I want to be in a position where I can employ local people and in doing so give back to the local community," continued Damien.

With a healthy balance sheet and a truly unique product offering, it looks like this goal is becoming more and more a reality for 'SlideRax'.



Damien Jackson, owner of SlideRax

# PLATO EBR – Business Philosophy at its Best

***The EU's INTERREG IVA Programme is supporting a new PLATO EBR Programme to help small to medium sized enterprises (SME's) grow and develop. Launched in Craigavon late last year it is currently recruiting for businesses to sign-up and take advantage of the various support services on offer.***

Primarily a networking programme, PLATO invites large businesses to act as a 'Parent Company' offering advice and guidance to groups of smaller businesses, on a cross-border basis. Each 'Parent Company' involved in the programme releases two executives, on a part-time basis, to act as group leaders and share their expertise with clusters of up to 15 SME's.

The group leaders are typically specialists within a particular business discipline such as finance, marketing, sales, personnel or manufacturing. They share their business acumen with the programme participants over a 12 month period, during specially held workshops which also bring in outside experts to discuss additional aspects of business development.



Pictured at the launch are (front from left): Lorraine McCourt, Director, SEUPB, Dr Cecilia Hegarty, Director of PLATO EBR and Margaret Hearty, Director of Business Services Intertrade Ireland. (Back from left): Joe English, Louth County Enterprise Board, John McEnteggert, Monaghan County Enterprise Board; Cllr Gerald Mallon, Vice Chair East Border Region; JJ O'Connell, Director PLATO Cork and Joe Bailey, Director Martin Food Equipment Ltd.

It is a win-win situation with the SME gaining invaluable business advice and training whilst the 'Parent Company' representative gains an enhanced insight into the issues and challenges facing small businesses today.

The PLATO Programme is being managed under the EBR (East Border Region) cross-border group alongside Dr. Cecilia Hegarty, the Director of PLATO EBR.

The programme is actively seeking to recruit SME's interested in enhancing their personal business network to develop and grow competitively.

For more information contact the programme team at: [info@platoebr.com](mailto:info@platoebr.com) or by telephone to: +353 (0) 47 81975.

PROJECT PROFILE...



# I.C.E. Project - Business Mentoring Lifts Companies to New Heights of Success

## PROJECT PROFILE

*The ICE or 'Innovation for Competitive Enterprises' project was awarded €2.5 million worth of funding from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme. Now nearing completion, it has helped many different companies in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland to enhance their business processes, create new products and increase their profitability.*

MIM Northern Ireland, based in Londonderry, is one of the companies which took full advantage of the support offered under the programme to boost its profitability and diversify its product line. Set-up in 1994, the company specialises in the installation of production machinery for a range of different business

sectors. Over the past two decades, it has amassed a wealth of experience in this field and employs equipment such as a specialist modular air bearing system which uses cushions of air to move weights of up to 20 tonnes.

Access to this type of equipment has allowed the company to grow steadily, since its creation. However, MIM NI's Chief Executive, John Deery, knew there was room for improvement. After attending an innovation seminar at the University of Ulster where the ICE programme was discussed, he decided to complete the application and was accepted onto the programme.

"We were assigned a business mentor who came into the

organisation and conducted a detailed review of how we were running the business," said John.

In order to help John build upon his businesses strengths the ICE mentor suggested that he diversify his existing product offering. This has lead to the development of a revolutionary new product called 'LowerLoad', which is unique to the marketplace and has now reached 'Patent Pending' stage. MIM launched "LowerLoad" at the IMHX material handling trade show at the NEC Birmingham from 19 – 22 March 2013.

"The mentoring we received from the ICE programme gave us a different perspective on how we went about our day-to-day work. We had been very successful to date, but this outside perspective helped us to explore new business development avenues that have given us that extra edge," said John.

The mentoring lasted approximately 11 months and has lead to some real changes as to how MIM Northern Ireland operates.

For more information on the ICE Programme, visit [www.iceprogramme.com](http://www.iceprogramme.com)



John Deery, Chief executive of MIM Northern Ireland. Photo: Michael Cooper.

# I.C.E Project - New Programme Maximises Exporting Potential

**Established in 2002, SL Controls has grown its business from a Sligo based enterprise into an international business with the addition of offices in Dublin and Galway.**

Since its incorporation the business has grown to become one of the leading companies in the provision of 'Manufacturing Equipment Systems Integration and Systems Support,' helping customers achieve Six Sigma and Overall Equipment Effectiveness targets.

Put simply, this involves a critical assessment of how businesses, which are involved in all types of manufacturing, put together their product lines for mass production.

SL Controls partners with its customers on new or existing manufacturing systems to increase the overall equipment effectiveness by addressing the critical steps at Design, Integration, Validation, Operation and Maintenance phases of a project.

The company offers support in ensuring its pharmaceutical and medical device clients, manufacturing systems are 'validated' according to FDA compliance guidelines.

Working with a number of blue chip companies such as Hewlett Packard, Intel, Vistakon and Amgen, SL Controls has amassed a wealth of expertise and now employs 26 staff.

Wanting to build upon his businesses profitability Keith Moran, Managing Director with SL Controls contacted the INTERREG IVA funded ICE Programme, after seeing an advert in his local paper.

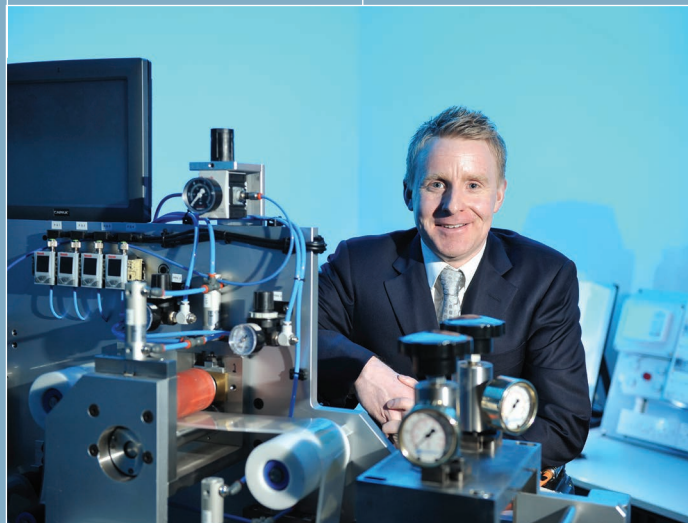
Upon being accepted onto the programme Keith and his team were given detailed commercialisation advice for their unique product offering called, 'DiVOM' (Design for, Integration, Validation, Operation and Maintenance).

The support Keith received included professional support on a wide-range of licensing issues as well with new performance measurement systems.

Commenting on the support offered via the ICE Programme Keith Moran, said: "The guidance we received from the ICE Programme has helped bring us up to the next level. It has made a tangible impact on our bottom line and will allow us to enhance our current business offering."

Keith has some definite plans to export the DiVOM process and is already looking at new market opportunities within the UK and the US.

PROJECT PROFILE...



Keith Moran, Managing Director with SL Controls. Photo: Michael Cooper.

## New Victims Advocacy Service Launched

'Pathways to Justice Project', a new PEACE III funded project, was recently launched at Parliament Buildings in Stormont. The project will establish a support and advocacy service for victims and survivors of conflict-related violence who are, or who wish to be engaged with, the Historical Enquiries Team (HET) or other justice and truth recovery processes.

Through facilitated storytelling conflict resolution workshops and creative arts programmes, the project will acknowledge the hurt, loss, trauma and suffering caused by conflict-related violence to assist the transition to peace and reconciliation. Psychological support will also be offered in the form of counselling; storytelling/experience sharing opportunities; themed conferences and cross-border trips.

The 'Pathways to Justice' project is delivered by Justice

for Innocent Victims of Terrorism Ltd.

For further information please contact the project on: 028 38 841079.

## Construction gets Underway at Pettigo/Tullyhommon

The construction phase of the Pettigo/Tullyhommon Termon Project has officially kicked off, marking a major milestone in the delivery of the €8 million PEACE III funded project.

Minister McCausland (DSD) and Minister McGinley (Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs) were present to mark the sod-turning on this scheme, which will see a major revitalisation and the provision of cross-community facilities in the border villages of Pettigo and Tullyhommon, on the Donegal/Fermanagh border.

Contractors P.J. Treacy & Sons Ltd have been appointed to undertake all the works under

this complex scheme, with the project being managed by Donegal County Council along with project partners Fermanagh District Council and the Association for the Development of Pettigo and Tullyhommon (ADOPT).

The new Riverside Walkway and new footbridge across the river Termon will provide a restful and symbolic feature in the centre of the village, uniting both villages across the border. The building works will also include the construction of a multi-purpose venue of 22,000 sq. ft, a new playgroup building and a youth hub at the local Methodist hall. It will provide a range of modern purpose designed facilities for all groups in the wider community.

## Be with Sligo as It Changes

The new 'Make Peace Public' website and social media campaign has just been launched. This is the first ever online peace-building resource for Sligo. According to Maeve McCormack and Peigin Doyle of the Make Peace Public project.

"Sligo's society has a wealth of cultures. Every community needs to ensure this wealth is respected and recognised."

"Most of us do this automatically, ensuring all are treated equally. At other times, maybe we need the skills to



Artist's impression of what the community centre at Pettigo will look like when completed.



look at how we work, socialise or become a neighbour to people who we view as different. Maybe we want to talk to them but don't want to offend by saying the wrong thing. Perhaps they have different political views and rather than discuss these, we just avoid the subject. Maybe we feel the issues are not relevant to us", they continued.

The website [www.makepeacepublic.org](http://www.makepeacepublic.org) has details of projects and organisations that can help in these situations.

Sixteen PEACE III projects currently work towards making Sligo a community where ethnic and religious diversity is welcomed, and where there is trust, tolerance and good relations among communities in the County and across the border.

The web resource will carry all the latest news and events of the Sligo PEACE III projects, a PEACE blog and background information on the EU's PEACE programme.

To know more, log on to [www.makepeacepublic.org](http://www.makepeacepublic.org), or follow the latest news on: <http://makepeacepublic.org/blog/> and <https://twitter.com/makepeacepublic>

## ‘Doing it Differently’

Over 400 people with disabilities have been given the opportunity to show others in society how they can go about

living their lives in a full and fulfilling manner, albeit ‘doing it differently’.

These people have been involved in the CAWT Citizenship for People with Disabilities project, which aims to promote the social inclusion of people with disabilities. Many of these participants were present at the event ‘Doing it Differently - Showcasing Best Practice Towards the Inclusion of People with Disabilities’, recently organised in Letterkenny.

The purpose of the event was to celebrate the project's achievements and to illustrate how the CAWT Citizenship for People with Disabilities Project has done things differently too. The event provides an opportunity to highlight the impact of the ‘Day Opportunities Service’ on the lives of people with disabilities who live in border region.

The CAWT Citizenship for People with Disabilities project is part of the overarching programme ‘*Putting Patients, Clients and Families First*’ delivered by CAWT (Co-operation and Working Together). With a total budget available of over £2 million, the Citizenship project works with a total of nine community and voluntary groups to deliver two initiatives: the ‘Day Opportunities Services’ and the ‘Community Awareness Programme’.

## European Territorial Co-Operation 2014-2020: Summary of Consultation Responses now available

Following the recent consultation on ‘Preparing a new Cross Border Co-Operation Programme’ (INTERREG V) and a new programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE IV), the SEUPB has published a summary of the 173 responses received.

The SEUPB is considering all the consultation responses in the drafting of Operational Programmes for INTERREG V and PEACE IV. These programmes will be developed over the coming months. During the drafting process, an Ex Ante Evaluation, a Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out on the two draft Operational Programmes.

A further statutory public consultation will be held, which will allow the public the opportunity to comment on the draft Operational Programmes, the Strategic Environmental Assessments and the Equality Impact Assessments. This second consultation is likely to be held in the third quarter of 2013.

# BATTERIE Project Promotes Smart Technology

PROJECT NEWS

***BATTERIE is a 14 strong collaboration bringing together partners from across the five Atlantic Area Regions: the UK, Ireland, France, Spain and Portugal. The project, which has been awarded strategic status, receives funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the Atlantic Area Programme (INTERREG IVB).***

The project started in 2012 and will run for three years. It has a truly international and 'triple helix' (partners from the academic, public and private sectors) composition. Led by Action Renewables from Northern Ireland, BATTERIE looks at innovative ways to integrate alternative fuels and smart technology into international air, road, rail and sea transport networks.

With rising utility prices and energy security issues topping national and regional agendas, BATTERIE focuses on providing answers to the most pressing issues affecting member states. This includes hot topics such as the future impact of rising fuel costs and fuel shortages, and identifying how smart technologies and alternative fuel use can rise to meet future challenges.



Minister Kennedy (DRD), Minister Attwood (DoE) and Terry Waugh form Action Renewables at the launch of the BATTERIE project with a Renault 'Twizy', a 100% electric vehicle.



# Inter-regional and Transnational Programmes

One of the innovative outputs of BATTERIE is an interactive web based 'journey planning tool'. The tool, being developed by South West College, will enable an individual to plan a journey across the Atlantic Area using alternative fuels such as an electric vehicle. Each region will conduct a pilot journey to trial and inform the web based journey planning tool. In Ireland and Northern Ireland the project is working very closely with eCars and is supported by DoE and DRD. The project will also produce a number of guideline policy reports for policy-makers.

BATTERIE has already held partner meetings in Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland and France. In both Scotland and France a themed conference was held in parallel to the partner meeting with between 50 to 80 attendees. The project was launched in Northern Ireland. In December 2012 by Minister Attwood (DoE) and Minister Kennedy (DRD) at the EU Commission Office.

For further information please contact Terry Waugh, Project manager, at [terry.waugh@actionrenewables.co.uk](mailto:terry.waugh@actionrenewables.co.uk) or visit [www.batterie.eu.com](http://www.batterie.eu.com).

## **INTERREG IVB Transnational Update – Preparing for 2014 -2020**

The INTERREG IVB transnational programmes are gearing up for the 2014 – 2020 funding period. In a bid to ensure an early start to the future Northern Periphery Programme, a preparatory call for applications is currently open until 12 April 2013. The main purpose of preparatory projects is to generate high-quality main project application for the future programme for 2014-2020. Programme planning is well underway for the new Northern Periphery Programme and like all other European Territorial Co-operation programmes, the NPP will need to choose up to four thematic priorities from the list of eleven outlined in the Cohesion Policy draft Regulations. However, at this stage, the programme is seeking applications across any of the thematic objectives. Applications must adhere to the EU 2020 strategy of Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth. For the preparatory project, there is a requirement of a minimum 2 partners from 2 participating regions. The maximum budget is €45,000 with a maximum grant of €27,000. The Programme Monitoring Committee expects

that around 10 projects will be funded. Decisions will be taken on 18 June 2013 and all approved projects will start approximately on 01 July 2013.

## **Sharing Experiences from INTERREG IVC**

The INTERREG IVC programme has recently launched a study on how projects organise the process of exchanging experience among partners and how this process can directly influence the policy framework of the concerned regions. In addition, a database which contains a collection of good practices, identified within the course of INTERREG IVC projects is now available to view. The main objective of this database is to allow local, regional and national policy-makers to access the ideas and techniques that have been successfully implemented by their European counterparts, and to contact the relevant people in the organisation to get further details on the conditions for transfer. The study and the database are available at: <http://www.interreg4c.net/>



# PEACE III Project Pupils Meet Ulster Rugby Team

*School children from the North East were surprised when they met up with their Ulster Rugby heroes at an action packed game at Ravenhill. Pupils from Castle Tower School in Ballymena and Sandelford Special School in Coleraine, travelled to Ravenhill Rugby Ground to support the Ulster Rugby team playing against the Ospreys.*

This was a special celebration event, as part of the North East PEACE III Schools Based Project which is funded under the EU's PEACE III Programme. The two schools have combined their resources to work together over the past 12 months.

Bonnar Clarke from Sandelford Special School said about the initiative: 'Staff and pupils from both schools interact naturally. It is very smooth and has been a real motivation for behaviour and attitudes within the school.'

The schools attract young people from across a number of council areas and from diverse backgrounds and communities including The Glens, Dunloy, Coleraine estates, Bushmills, Macosquin, and Ballymena. They have come together



Three of the young participants in the project with Tommy Bowe and Roger Wilson from the Ulster Rugby squad at Ravenhill, during the Ulster v Ospreys game. Photo: Michael Cooper.

to deliver a sports-focused programme giving the young people a chance to try sports from a different community and to build cross-community relationships through a series of workshops focusing on shared interests.

Sandra Wylie from Castle Tower School commented: 'The North East PEACE III Partnership has furnished Castle Tower with the means to work with another local special needs school with the aim of undertaking a sports-based cross-community project. From day one the pupils were enthusiastic and eager about the chance

to undertake activities with pupils of a similar age from the surrounding area.'

The visit to Ravenhill was the icing on the cake for the students after taking part in a trio of rugby, football and Gaelic training sessions. During the game, six of the young people were invited on to the pitch at half time to meet Tommy Bowe and Roger Wilson, two of the Ulster Rugby first team players. One comment from the group sums up the whole exhilarating experience, 'It was class!'

# EU Funded Shared Space Opens in East Belfast

An ambitious £21m community regeneration project in receipt of over £6m worth of PEACE III funding, was officially opened on 26 November in East Belfast by the First Minister and the deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland.

The Skainos Project has created a purpose built development specifically designed to support cross-community integration in Belfast.

Funded by the Department for Social Development, the European Union's PEACE III Programme, the International Fund for Ireland and East Belfast Mission, Skainos will promote collaborative working from a number of community and voluntary sector agencies

to improve the lives of people from all sections of society.

Twelve years in development 'Skainos', which means dwelling place or tent in Hebrew, has helped to reinvigorate the local area, creating real change in one of Belfast's most deprived areas.

The project provides support services, on a cross-community basis, for local people from the ages of 0 to 100. This support includes crèche facilities; adult education courses through Belfast Metropolitan College; career advice for the long-term unemployed via the employability advice programme 'Stepping Stone'; as well as elderly care services through Age NI.

For more information on the Skainos project visit:  
[www.skainos.org](http://www.skainos.org)

First Minister Peter Robinson MLA and deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness MLA picture with Rev. Gary Mason from the East Belfast Mission (centre) at the official opening of the Skainos Village.



An image of the vertical garden, one of the unique features at Skainos, during the construction phase.

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:**  
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## 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.

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## 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:  
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