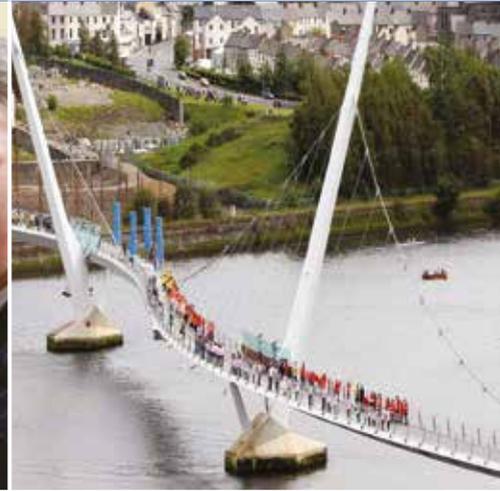


YOUR

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

Autumn / Winter

EU!



Celebrating Twenty Years: Looking Back and Looking Forward



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The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance 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 Secretariat functions for the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Territorial Co-operation Programmes (2014-2020). It also has a signposting and supporting role for projects wanting to engage with the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Inter-regional Programmes.

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Welcome to the Autumn / Winter edition of Your EU!

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of 2019. Every year I always say how busy it has been, but this year has undoubtedly been one of the busiest; including project launches and closures as well as showcase exhibitions. We have also commenced the development of the new PEACE PLUS Programme.

A truly significant and exciting time, made even more poignant as we mark our 20th anniversary in December. To celebrate, we have compiled a special feature on pages 8 and 9, chartering some of the key successes of the present as well as the past.

We are currently in the process of finalising a series of PEACE PLUS stakeholder information events, which will be held in every county within the programme area in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

These will begin towards the end of the year, and continue in early 2020. It is going to be an extremely busy start to the New Year but we can't wait to get out across the region to hear the views of our stakeholders.

I look forward to updating you more about these events in the Spring edition.

In the last edition, I announced the launch of the first shared space project called the 'Monaghan Peace Campus'. I am delighted to announce that since then, another project has launched, called 'Connecting Pomeroy'. The €5.9m project aims to build positive relationships in the village through the delivery of a series of shared spaces including a suite of new community facilities and a magic forest, which will help boost outdoor and visitor opportunities. (You can read more about this project on page 14).

I have also continued to attend various launches throughout the year such as the Walled Garden at St Columb's Park in Derry (see page 13), and more recently, project closures for the local authority-led Peace Action Plans.

It has been a privilege to hear what a real success they have been and to meet the participants who take part. One such example is the closure of Cavan County Council's Peace Action Plan, where I was able to share in a day of celebration. (You can read more about this on page 4).

Finally, as with every edition, we have included an update from the INTERREG VB/VC Programmes. The Belfast Met led GenComm project has been going from strength to strength since it launched and is



proving to be a real catalyst in the development of renewables in Ireland. (You can read more about the project's progress on page 19).

I sincerely hope that you enjoy this edition of Your EU and I would welcome your feedback or comments on its content.

Gina McIntyre
Chief Executive, SEUPB

Special Military & Historical Event Held to Mark the Achievements of Cavan PEACE IV Project

A special military and historical event was recently held to mark the achievements of, and officially close, Cavan County Council's PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

Featuring exhibitions, talks and military re-enactments, the event perfectly reflected the achievements made over the three-year lifetime of the project.

Speaking at the event the Council's Acting Chief Executive, Eoin Doyle noted that the community-based projects under the Action Plan had ensured that EU funding had contributed to real and lasting change in the region.

"The transformative nature of this EU support is evident from the wonderful exhibition in the newly built shared space here at the County Museum," said Mr Doyle.

Also speaking at the event, PEACE IV Programme Manager, Jane Cruden, hailed the commitment of the: project promoters; delivery partners; programme participants; Local Community Development Committee (LCDC); and elected members of Cavan County Council, in delivering the transformative PEACE IV Action Plan locally.

"This Action Plan supported groups to come together and get thinking and talking about difference, explore the truth of living with prejudice and discrimination. This, hopefully, will

lead to bridging the gaps between intolerance and understanding."

Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "Cavan County Council is the first local authority to have successfully completed its PEACE IV funded Action Plan. Almost one third of the total value of the PEACE IV Programme has been allocated to the local authorities in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland. This is due to their unique position in being able to understand and respond to the social integration needs of the community."

"To date, the excellent work that has been undertaken by Cavan County Council has made an enormous positive impact in the community. It has created new partnerships, between people and organisations that would not have had the opportunity to work with each other before and by working collaboratively have had outstanding results," she continued.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Executive Office, in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development, in Ireland.



Driving the 'PEACE train' at the official closure of Cavan County Council's PEACE IV project are Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB and the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphrey's TD.

Cross-Border Health Project Recognised in Major EU Award

The cross-border Community Paramedic Project, under the INTERREG VA funded Acute project, was recently shortlisted in the prestigious, European-wide, RegioStars awards.

Competing against many other initiatives from across all 28 member states, the project successfully made it through as a finalist in the 'Modernising Health Services' category.

Managed by the cross-border Health and Social Care Partnership CAWT (Co-operation and Working Together), the pilot project was specifically designed to reduce the number of people who need to visit Accident & Emergency (A&E) Departments.

A collaborative initiative between the National Ambulance Service in Ireland, the Scottish Ambulance Service and the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, the project is providing specialist training to ambulance staff so that more patients can be assessed and treated at home, or in their community.

To date, it has proved extremely beneficial for vulnerable older patients living in isolated, rural areas, across all three regions. The project has also helped to free up time, resources and much-needed bed space amongst a number of hospital A&E Departments and Acute Medical Assessment Units. It is currently being piloted in Buncrana in County Donegal; Clones in County

Monaghan; Castlederg in County Tyrone; and the Mid Argyll area of Western Scotland.

In addition to providing Community Paramedic Training, the EU funding is being used to invest in new rapid response vehicles for the pilot areas. These vehicles are also fitted out with the specialist equipment needed to provide care to patients in their homes or their community.

Welcoming news of the project's nomination Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, said: "We were delighted to hear that this excellent project had been recognised at a European level. It is one of a number of INTERREG VA funded initiatives that are implementing smart, effective cross-border solutions to health and

social care issues that affect many thousands of citizens living in the border region."

"The project is delivering on pioneering work, and in doing so is also helping to alleviate some of the pressures faced by our hospital emergency services, as well as providing much-needed healthcare to some of the most vulnerable and isolated members of society within their homes. I'm delighted this project was given the recognition it deserves." she continued.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Departments of Health in Northern Ireland and Ireland.



Pictured at the awards ceremony are (l-r) Sean Murphy, General Manager of Letterkenny Hospital; Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB; Bernie McCrory, CAWT Chief Officer; Edel O'Doherty, CAWT Deputy Chief Officer; and Damian McCallion, HSE National Director.

Youth-Led EU Road Trip

The European Commission took to the road with an exciting travel project in September with a group of hand-picked young social media influencers's.

Amongst thousands of applications, eight were selected to be on the Sweden - Canary Islands league of the trip, which included a visit to Northern Ireland.

The eight travellers included:

- Rares (27) - a Romanian photographer, based in Italy;
- Dayana (22) - a Bulgarian actress, living in the UK;
- Elliott (19) - a video maker from Sweden;
- Vanessa (24) - a South African blogger, now living in Hungary;
- Selina (22) - a German (photo) reporter;
- Panos (23) - a presenter from Cyprus;
- Olga (19) - a Polish copywriter;
- And Wijnand (26) - a filmmaker, from the Netherlands.

The trip is an initiative of the department of Regional and Urban Policies; aimed at young Europeans (18-24) and is described as a 'campaign for youth by youth'.

The young travellers were given the opportunity to explore Europe, over a month long adventure, learning just what the EU does on the ground. During their travels they met with their local peers, talked to young

influencers and took in many different activities and events.

In film, writing and pictures they were able to share their experiences to their online community, via their social media accounts.

As part of the Northern Ireland section of the trip, the eight young travellers visited the Youth Network for Peace project. The group were able to listen to some of the stories and experiences of the project's

young beneficiaries. Some of the group took part in a live on-air debate, as part of Youth Network for Peace's local radio station: Radio YNP.

In total the group visited 17 countries and more than 35 regions.

To date, the entire Road Trip campaign has reached 16 million young Europeans.



Members of the group enjoyed meeting Séan and Paddy from the PEACE IV Youth Network for Peace project at its headquarters in Youth Action, NI.

Health Project Celebrates its 1000th Digital Health Intervention

Over the summer the €8m INTERREG VA health project mPower celebrated its 1000th digital health intervention.

Led by NHS National Services Scotland (NSS), the project is creating a cross-border service for older people (65+) living with long-term health conditions across Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland.

It is working with communities to help individuals to take the steps needed to live well, safely and independently in their own homes, by self-managing their own health with the support of community connections.

mPowers Community Navigators are working with people referred from health and social care services, developing wellbeing plans which

connect them to activities in their community; as well as connecting them to technology to enhance support for health and wellbeing.

Overall, the project aims to support 2,500 individuals, through the development of wellbeing plans; as well as 4,500 individuals through digital health interventions.

One of the thousand beneficiaries was Daphne Nisbet, from Wigtownshire, in Dumfries and Galloway.

Daphne has benefited through *Florence*, a text-based medication reminder system to help her to take her medication as prescribed.

Daphne was referred to the project in early 2019 following the completion of a wellbeing plan with her local Community Navigator.

After an initial six-week trial of *Florence*, Daphne was successfully taking her medication as prescribed. Daphne increased her independence, something which she has expressed is very important to her.

For Daphne's full story visit: <https://youtu.be/iYzbcCon8dA>

For more information on the project, and for a list of all partners, visit: <https://mpowerhealth.eu/>

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Departments for Health in Northern Ireland and Ireland, as well as the Scottish Government.



Daphne Nisbet, from Wigtownshire, is the 1000th person to have been helped so far by the project.

Celebrating Twenty Years: Look

Twenty years.....

Twenty challenging; rewarding; innovative; and positive years; involving new starts; sad goodbyes and a lot of hard work and dedication...

It's all part of the SEUPB journey since its conception following the British-Irish agreement of 8 March 1999.

One of six cross-border organisations set up under this agreement, the SEUPB has acted as a North/South Implementation Body, overseeing the successful delivery of the EU's PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.

These programmes were designed to enhance cross-border co-operation; promote reconciliation; and create a more peaceful and prosperous society across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and parts of Western Scotland.

As we reach this important milestone, Your EU decided to take the opportunity to reflect on the organisation's key achievements.

At the centre of its success has been its staff (some of whom have been present since the beginning). Dedicated, meticulous and hardworking, SEUPB employees are the heart and driving force of the organisation.



The PEACE Programme has provided support for thousands of victims & survivors of the troubles / conflict.

Secondly, are the EU Programmes it manages.

To date, the INTERREG Programme has invested approximately €851m within the region; supporting over 3,000 businesses, creating approximately 1,000 jobs and impacting over 100,000 beneficiaries in health; rural development; enterprise; and tourism. The current INTERREG VA Programme will continue to help create a more prosperous and sustainable cross-border region.



The CAWT Partnership, formed as a direct result of INTERREG Programme funding, have delivered (and continue to deliver) a wide range of projects, changing the lives of thousands of cross-border patients.



The Peace Link in Clones is just one example of a shared space project that has brought numerous benefits to the local community.

ing Back and Looking Forward

Similarly, the PEACE Programme has invested almost €2bn within the region; supporting over 44,000 victims and survivors; holding 189,000 anti-sectarian/racism events; and helping over 77,000 individuals entering or progressing in employment, education and training. As the PEACE Programme has evolved it has continued to promote peace and stability.

Iconic projects have included:

- The €16m PEACE Bridge in Derry-Londonderry. Designed to connect the mainly Catholic city-side with the predominately protestant Ebrington area, the project has permanently altered the landscape of the City.
- The creation of a number of much needed community & recreational shared spaces, where people from different communities and cultures



To date, the INTERREG Programme has invested approximately €851m within the region, supporting numerous cross-border initiatives such as greenway projects, which are creating new sustainable travel routes for both cyclists and pedestrians.

can meet and learn from one another. Notable projects include: Girdwood Community Hub in North Belfast; the Termon Centre in Pettigo, connecting Donegal and Fermanagh; and the Peace Link in Clones, which transformed a fourteen acre site into a state-of-the-art multi-use sports & recreational facility.



The Peace Link in Clones is just one example of a shared space project that has brought numerous benefits to the local community.

- The improvement of cross-border health and social care services, most particularly through the creation of the CAWT partnership (Co-operation and Working Together). As well as creating a network of healthcare professionals (North and South) CAWT projects have supported over 53,000 beneficiaries and created 121 new health and social care services. The partnership continues to receive funding under the current INTERREG VA Programme.
- And finally, the investment in businesses and enterprises, particularly SME's. One notable example is the €16.6m Co-Innovate project. Funded under the current INTERREG VA Programme, it is supporting over 1,400 SMEs and micro-businesses, helping boost small firms' competitiveness through increased participation in cross-border research and innovation collaboration.

Looking forward, the organisation is entering into exciting new territory

with the creation of the PEACE PLUS Programme. A hybrid of the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes, it will continue to contribute to social, economic and regional stability.

The development of the content for the programme will be subject to an extensive and robust information sharing process, allowing all stakeholders the opportunity to feed into the programme's development.

Looking forward, this investment will continue and support even more inspirational and important projects.



Peace Bridge, Derry – Londonderry

Celebration Event Highlights the Impact of Cross-Border EU Funding in Western Scotland

A high-profile exhibition showcasing the positive impact that EU funding is having in Scotland took place on 11 September in the Dynamic Earth Conference Centre, Edinburgh.

The exhibition was sponsored by the Scottish Government, Scotland Europa, Scottish Enterprise and the SEUPB.

A total of 16 different INTERREG VA funded projects, involved in the delivery of enterprise development, health & social care and environmental protection projects took part in the event.

Delivering a key-note speech at the exhibition was Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation Ivan McKee, MSP. Addressing attendees he said: "The projects I've heard

about today are fantastic examples of what Scotland can achieve when we work closely with our Northern Irish and Irish neighbours. Its been great to see first-hand the innovative solutions put forward by projects to solve cross-border issues like health, transport and the environment.

The INTERREG VA Programme is a unique opportunity for organisations in Scotland to strengthen international ties and work across borders to address shared challenges. Whatever the future holds, Scotland will always remain open to working with our European friends and I hope we build on this successful collaboration in the years ahead."

Underlining the importance of the event Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "This exhibition was

designed to showcase the fantastic breadth and diversity of projects that are currently being funded by the EU's INTERREG VA Programme involving organisations in Western Scotland, in partnership with Northern Ireland and Ireland. Each project represents a unique cross-border collaboration of different organisations working together to achieve a common goal."

"These collaborations would not have been possible, however, without the assistance provided by the INTERREG VA Programme. It has made great strides in encouraging new and innovative ways of working, information sharing and problem-solving that will be of benefit to all citizens living in Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland."



Celebrating with INTERREG VA project reps, and SEUPB CEO Gina McIntyre are Jim Millard, Branch Head of the Scottish Government (centre right); and Minister Ivan McKee, MSP (centre).

SEUPB at the National Ploughing Championships

For the second year the SEUPB took a stand at the 88th National Ploughing Championships in County Carlow.

With over 300,000 visitors it was a great opportunity to showcase the work of the PEACE Programme.

From farming to fashion; artisan foods to top-of-the-range machinery, the show features the very best of what Ireland has to offer, with almost 1,700 exhibitors taking part.

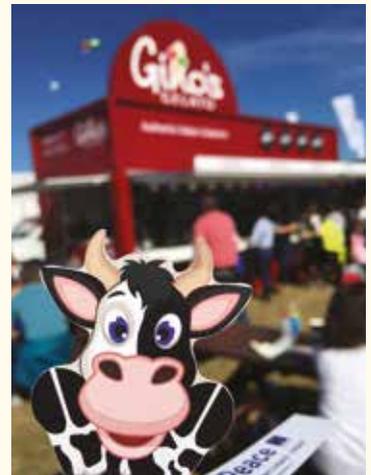
Helping to man the SEUPB stand, and provide clear examples of the benefits of the programme, were two young participants from the €1.1m Youth Network for Peace project and Louth County Council, who helped represent not only their PEACE IV Local Authority Action Plan but the €3.5m, INTERREG VA funded, Carlingford Lough Greenway.

Among the visitors to the stand was Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring TD.

The SEUPB PEACE cow also proved very popular with young visitors, and even went on a tour of the show.



Minister for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring pictured at the SEUPB stand, with Therese McArdle, Louth County Council (l) and Rosie Smyth, Department for Rural and Community Development (r).



Seán and Paddy from the PEACE IV Youth Network for Peace at the SEUPB stand during the show.

Win-Win for Water Quality and the Environment with Garron Plateau Bog Restoration

Improved water quality and benefits to the environment are the expected results of an innovative, INTERREG VA funded project, which is set to restore and repair 2,000 hectares of peatland in the Garron Plateau in County Antrim.

The Garron Plateau is the largest area of intact blanket bog in Northern Ireland and is recognised nationally and internationally as a habitat for a huge variety of rare plants, insects and birds.

Blanket bog is a fragile habitat. Previous management practices at the Plateau have taken their toll, with damage occurring through overgrazing and the digging of drainage channels through the bog.

The landscape supplies drinking water to approximately 14,000 homes in Ballymena and the surrounding area via the Water Treatment Works at Dungonnell Reservoir. The blanket bog acts as a vital carbon store, trapping and storing atmospheric carbon as peat accumulates.

Work has taken place at Dungonnell to help restore the blanket bog to its former glory; as well as improve water quality and encourage the native wildlife that used to live there to return.

This work forms part of the €4.7m Co-operation Across Borders for Biodiversity (CABB) project which will

see 2,228 hectares of blanket bog being restored across three countries.

Speaking about the project Roy Taylor, NI Water Catchment Manager said: "During the 1960's and 1970's the land close to Dungonnell Dam was damaged when drainage ditches were dug through the bog. Combined with overgrazing by livestock, the peat was exposed, causing it to erode and dry out. With the exposure to the elements, the bog lost its natural ability to store water. This project aims to restore the bog to naturally filter the water and also provide a vital wildlife habitat."

The project has already been awarded a prestigious 'Green Apple Environment Award' for its work with Lowry Building & Civil Engineering, who helped install a number of dams for NI Water as part of the restoration of Garron Bog. In addition, the work is serving as best practice and is a model for future bog restoration projects in Northern Ireland and beyond.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Ireland.



Pictured at the event are (l-r): Sara Venning, CEO NI Water; Leanne Massey, Director SEUPB and Shaun Thomas, Director UK Countries RSPB.

St Columb's Park Walled Garden Officially Opened

Derry City and Strabane District Council recently held a special ceremony to celebrate the launch of St Columb's Park Walled Garden.

Receiving £370,000 through the Shared Spaces and Services strand of the PEACE IV Programme the rebuilt garden includes a historic path network and will be used as a shared space by all sections of society.

The project was identified as a priority in both the Council's Parks Development Programme and its Strategic Growth Plan, both committing to protect and promote natural and built heritage assets, as well as develop parks and green spaces.

Speaking at the official opening event Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB reflected: "Peace IV funded Shared Space Projects, like the one we are celebrating here today, are being supported across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. The EU's PEACE IV Programme has approved funding for a number of large-scale standalone projects as well as a larger number of smaller-scale projects through local authorities."

"Upon completion, each one will provide a space for the local community to engage with each other. Working together offers an opportunity to challenge some of the misconceptions and prejudices that

have arisen both consciously and unconsciously. Every small step helps us move forward as a tolerant, peaceful and forward-thinking society, which is willing to embrace diversity."

Also speaking at the event was Alison Wallace, Chair of the PEACE IV Board, who added: "The Walled Garden is one of our key Shared Space projects under our PEACE IV Local Authority Action Plan."

"The PEACE IV Board are thrilled to see it officially opened and would encourage people to visit, or sign up, for the ongoing cross-community programme now being rolled out in the park."

"Since the opening of the Peace Bridge and with the ongoing regeneration of the Ebrington site, St.Columb's Park has been increasingly enjoyed by all our communities. Extending public places where people socialise together, like this Walled Garden, is very much part of peace."

"The project is not only restoring heritage - it is restoring hope", she continued.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Executive Office, in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development, in Ireland.



CEO of the SEUPB, Gina McIntyre, was proud to attend the special event alongside: the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC), Councillor Michaela Boyle; Colin Kennedy, DCSDC; Sue Divin, DCSDC PEACE IV Manager; Alison Wallace, DCSDC PEACE IV Board Chair; Councillor Martin Reilly, DCSDC PEACE IV Board Co-Chair; together with members of the DCSDC PEACE IV Board & Council project staff.

£5.9m 'Connecting Pomeroy' Shared Space Launched

A new, £5.9m, PEACE IV shared space project will connect the village of Pomeroy (Co.Tyrone) through the creation of shared community spaces and a programme of engagement.

Known as 'Connecting Pomeroy', the project has three core elements which will: enhance the look and feel of the centre of the village; create a suite of new community facilities; and boost outdoor and visitor opportunities through the development of a 'magic forest'.

EU funding will help develop a visitor centre and trail in Pomeroy Forest, and create opportunities for shared learning experiences with school, youth and community groups.

Among the new community facilities will be a new Church of Ireland Hall; a 3-G multi-use games area at the Presbyterian Church Hall; and a gym at Pomeroy's Plunkett's GAC.

The village will also benefit from a public realm upgrade; enhancing footpaths, lighting and planting, as well as helping to connect the top and bottom of the village, which have previously been considered to be divided by 'invisible' peace walls.

In addition, a three year engagement programme will seek to generate contact across the community, particularly among children and young people, encouraging respect and understanding, and leading to the formation of sustained friendships.

During the project's launch event the Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Martin Kearney, reflected on the partnerships that had been formed and developed as a direct result of the funding, noting: "The local community is at the heart of the drive to connect Pomeroy and a strong partnership has been formed. The commitment which has been required to develop that partnership cannot be underestimated. It has, at times, taken no small degree of courage and a willingness to compromise, to understand an alternative view and a determination to reach agreement for the greater good of the community of Pomeroy."

Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "The different elements making up the Pomeroy project have all been specifically designed to create opportunities for people from all

parts of our community to come together."

"This creates the environment for people to set aside some of the misconceptions they may have about communities different than their own, which helps to increase understanding and mutual respect. It also acts as a catalyst for growth and the creation of a more peaceful, confident and forward looking society," she continued.

For further information about Connecting Pomeroy visit www.midulstercouncil.org/connectingpomeroy

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department for Communities, in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development, in Ireland.



Pictured at the event are (back row l – r) – Cathy Kelly, SEUPB; Mark Farquhar, Pomeroy Development Projects; Leanne Massey, Director SEUPB and (front row l – r) councillor Frances Burton; councillor Martin Kearney, Chair of the PEACE IV Partnership; and Oliver McDonald, Pomeroy Development Projects.

PEACE IV Project Changing the Lives of Young People

The €3.8m PEACE IV funded Peace Bytes project has been working hard to help transform the lives of approximately 600 young people.

Working closely with long-standing community based project partners in Rathcoole; Derry-Londonderry; Newtownabbey; and Merville, Peace Bytes is utilising a combination of technology and traditional youth work methodologies in order to target, recruit and retain young people aged between 14 and 24.

Project participants are experiencing cultural interaction and exchange with members of different communities and are supported by dedicated youth workers, on a one-to-one basis, encouraging them to take a more active role in society.

Now in its second year, the project continues to make a difference to the lives of the young beneficiaries.

A few recent highlights have included:

- A number of trips and activities including an 'Ice Cream Social' fundraiser for Down Syndrome Ireland, organised with young people in Merville, Co. Donegal. The event included arts and crafts, face painting and, of course, ice cream.
- Similarly, young people in Antrim and Newtownabbey have been working on creating a new sensory break out room for their peers at Edmund Rice College, with

equipment and materials provided by local businesses.

- Embracing the power of sport to bridge divides, young people from Peace Bytes programmes across Northern Ireland and Donegal came together in August for a cross-community football tournament in Belfast.
- For Good Relations Week 2019, Peace Bytes in Derry-Londonderry held a series of events and workshops. These included the successful '*Stories of Healing*' event. This brought together a former British soldier and the sister of a man killed during the Troubles for a discussion with a group of young people at the Peace Bytes centre. There were also a series of day long workshops with young people, focusing on issues around identity and community.

In the coming months, a new cohort of young people will continue their work with the project. Weekly sessions towards OCN qualifications, cross-community and good relations activities and external trips will form the core of their engagement, with each group also designing and carrying out their own community social action project.

For more information about Peace Bytes, and other Bytes Project programmes, visit www.thebytesproject.com or email administrator@bytes.org.

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Executive Office, in Northern Ireland and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, in Ireland.



Young people and staff from the Peace Bytes project show off their drone photography skills at a cross-community workshop during Good Relations Week.

TV Presenter & Wildlife Biologist, Lizzie Daly, Helps Celebrate Environment Project's Success

TV presenter and Wildlife Biologist Lizzie Daly (host of BBC Earth Unplugged YouTube Channel) recently helped celebrate the success of the €9m Collaborative Action for the Nature Network project (CANN), at a special conference in Corrick House Hotel and Spa.

Overlooking the uplands of Sliabh Beagh, an important cross-border CANN site, the aim of the 'Delivering CANN' mid-project conference was to reflect on the success of the project since its launch in 2017; and encourage collaborative thinking, learning and action from attendees.

On the day Lizzie delivered a keynote address highlighting habitat loss across the globe and recognising our peatlands as being as important as the Amazon.

Progress updates from CANN partner organisations highlighted the key successes and projected targets of the project.

One of the key success stories discussed on the day was the discovery of a rare Desmoulin's whorl snail by a team of specialists who had been conducting field surveys as part of the project. Typically less than 3mm in size, these molluscs are smaller than a new-born baby's fingernail. This find, alongside bird surveys, foraging workshops, mapping projects and invasive species trials were all part of the CANN project's highlights.

The CANN project aims to improve the condition of protected habitats and support priority species found within Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Scotland. Such targets will allow the region to meet key EU biodiversity targets, ensuring the future of these internationally important habitats and species.

With 11 project partners, the work of the CANN project is both vital and far reaching; carrying out on the ground

conservation actions on over 3,650 hectares of designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation) to improve their environmental condition.

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, in Northern Ireland, the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, in Ireland and by Scottish Natural Heritage, in Scotland.



Pictured at the event are (l-r): Sheena McEldowney, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; Andrew King, SEUPB; Leanne Massey, Director SEUPB; Councillor Charlie Casey, Chairperson, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; Michael Lipsett, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; and Eamonn Keaveney, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

North West Greenway Network

Pedals Ahead



In the 2018 summer edition of Your EU we featured the launch of the €14.85m, INTERREG VA-funded North West Greenway Network.

Led by Derry City & Strabane District Council the funding will enable 46.5km of cross-border greenway and shared path to be constructed across three routes in the North West region:

- Derry-Londonderry - Buncrana;
- Derry-Londonderry - Muff;
- Lifford - Strabane.

Fast forward to November 2019 and substantial progress has been made on the project. After widespread community and stakeholder consultations, the greenway team has now finalised the route corridor for each area.

Planning applications have been submitted for Lifford-Strabane (route 3) and Derry-Muff (route 2), with permission granted by Donegal County Council for the Lifford and

Muff sections. Planning applications for the 32.5km route linking Derry to Buncrana (route 1) will be submitted by both local authorities in 2020.

Construction in Muff will commence by Christmas 2019, with work in Lifford and Strabane expected to follow by March 2020.

Speaking about the project developments Jonathan Henderson, Programme Manager, said: "We are very excited that construction will soon commence in Muff, with Lifford and Strabane following in the New Year. The infrastructure planned will transform how people travel and interact in their respective towns, both facilitating and encouraging more active, healthier lifestyles to the benefit of people's wellbeing."

Furthermore, the team's Active Travel Officer has been out and about engaging workplaces, schools and communities to incorporate active travel into their daily routines, which will have a positive long-term impact



Culmore Road in Derry-Londonderry, part of route 2 as it currently looks.



The anticipated view of Culmore Road following completion of works.



Attendees at a recent community workshop, where they learned about bike maintenance from the Active Travel Officer.

on the environment and wider society.

Keep-up-to-date with the project news via its facebook and Twitter pages: [@nwgreenway](#).

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department of Infrastructure, Northern Ireland and the Department for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Ireland.

Music being Used as a Dialogue for Peace

“I used to think that music was like lace upon a garment, nice to have but not necessary. I have come to believe that music is essential to our community life.”
George Eastman - an American entrepreneur who founded the Eastman Kodak Company.

Music was the dialogue in Draperstown as Glasgowbury Creative Hub hosted the launch of the Mid Ulster *Orchestra of Change*, a Beyond Skin project.

The project forms part of Mid Ulster's £3m Local Authority Action Plan and its aim is to use music to provide a platform for children and young people to express their identity, needs, gifts, stories and sense of belonging.

Music productions from the project will explore themes of equality; human rights; environment; community; mental health; youth;

peace and security. Beyond Skin are creative innovators in peacebuilding, enabling the arts as the dialogue to assist the development of a more peaceful, equal and intercultural society, free from racism & sectarianism.

The project was formalised after the success of Beyond Skin's series of *Orchestra of Change* workshops during the Arts Dialogue programme for the Magherafelt Tafelta Festival in August 2018. The project was developed into an eighteen month programme, welcoming participants across the Mid Ulster district.

Speaking about the initiative Beyond Skin founder Darren Ferguson commented: “Every process has a rhythm and we all have soundtracks to our stories. The Northern Ireland peace process is no different. Sharing, learning and celebrating through music and sound is the best approach for building relationships

and skills that enable people to contribute to a society where the cycle of sectarianism and intolerance is broken. Just like an orchestra, each participant will demonstrate how you can be an individual, but part of it all at the same time.”

The *Orchestra of Change* Project is open to anyone 10-18 years who plays an instrument or sings. Facilitating the majority of the project will be Greek composer & musician Nikos Petsakos and Hip-Hop Rap producer Raphael Frank. Both Nikos and Frank are part of the Arts Dialogue collective, an international intergenerational team of musicians, artists, producers, writers & peace activists.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Executive Office, in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community, Development, in Ireland.



Participants at the launch of the Mid Ulster Orchestra of Change event are pictured with Councillor Cora Corry, Carrmoghler Ward, Mid Ulster District Council, Beyond Skin facilitators Niko Petsakos, Raphael Frank and Sean Henry.

GenComm Project: A Proven Catalyst for Renewables in Ireland

Your EU previously featured the Generating Energy Secure Communities (GenComm) project.

Addressing issues in energy and sustainability for North West European Communities, the project is developing a sustainable, community-scaled, hydrogen (H₂)-based, model that will use local renewable sources to supply electricity, heating and transportation fuels.

GenComm aims to reverse the current situation in which communities meet 75-80% of their energy needs from non-renewable sources. The proposed model will allow renewable generated energy to: [1] be dispatchable, [2] meet heating demand, and [3] supply transportation fuels. Therefore, through the model, communities will be able to develop autonomous, secure and sustainable energy matrices.

Since its launch, the project has made some steady progress.

One example in Northern Ireland is an initiative at Rathlin Island, off the Antrim coast. The Rathlin Island Action Plan aims to enhance community involvement to conserve the islands exceptional environmental heritage. David Strain, eCar Project Manager at the Department for Infrastructure welcomed the plan, saying: "The Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland is responsible for implementing and monitoring the Rathlin Island Policy

and Action Plan. Rathlin is Northern Ireland's only inhabited offshore island and the Policy and Action Plan plays a key role in securing Rathlin's continued sustainable growth. The GenComm partners are engaging with the Department and islanders to share the benefits a clean hydrogen energy solution could bring to the Island.

Another example is the Valentia Island community off the coast of Co.Kerry. The local Valentia Energy group is soon to become a formal Energy Co-operative. The Energy Co-Ops CEO, Cormac Walsh, said: "The GenComm project has been an enormous help to ourselves at Energy Cooperatives Ireland. The project has provided us with technical information and top Hydrogen contacts in various partner countries. It has also provided us

with access to validation of Hydrogen data for our ongoing Valentia Island Hydrogen initiative. GenComm is an outstanding EU project which is progressing step-by-step."

Additionally, GenComm project partner Energia hit the headlines in early July when they announced they planned to invest more than £3 bn in renewable infrastructure over the coming five years.

Energia said its infrastructure investment will create an additional 200 jobs at the group, in addition to an estimated 3,000-5,000 construction jobs over the course of the five years.

Upcoming projects include: onshore and offshore wind farms; solar power; hydrogen fuel generation; and bio-energy facilities.



Paul McCormack, GenComm Programme Manager, is helping drive the project forward to meet some key targets. He is pictured here addressing the project partners at a meeting earlier this year.

Programme Summaries and SEUPB Contacts

PEACE IV

The €270m PEACE Programme 2014-2020 is a unique Structural Funds programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

The Programme's key objectives are:

- Shared Education
- Children & Young People
- Shared Spaces & Services
- Building Positive Relations

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

For further information on the PEACE IV Programme contact:

Joint Secretariat Omagh,
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INTERREG VA

The €283m INTERREG Programme 2014-2020 has been designed to address many of the developmental problems which are exacerbated by the existence of borders, in order to build upon opportunities for enhanced economic and social development across the region.

The Programme's key priorities are:

- Research & Innovation
- Environment
- Sustainable Transport
- Health

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).

For further information on the INTERREG VA Programme contact:

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INTERREG VB Transnational Programmes

The SEUPB has a role supporting the development of projects submitted to any of the INTERREG VB/VC Programmes.

These programmes are:

The Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme

This €56million ERDF 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 cooperation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. SEUPB is the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland.

The North West Europe Programme

This €370 million ERDF 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

The 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 EUROPE Programme

The €359 million ERDF INTERREG VC 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 28 EU states, plus Norway and Switzerland.

For further information on VB and VC Programmes, contact:

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