

# YOUR EU!

An update on the European Union's PEACE and INTERREG Programmes  
Winter/Spring 2018



## EU Funding to Develop a Renewable Energy Supercluster



# Contents

## Project News

- Page 4 €5.3m Cross–Border Sustainable Water Quality Improvement Project Launched
- Page 5 €4.9m Transformative Conservation Project Officially Launches
- Page 6 Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Celebrate New £4.9m PEACE IV Programme
- Page 7 €35.3m of EU PEACE IV Funding Offered to Promote ‘Shared Education’

## Feature article

- Pages 8 INTERREG VA Funding Tackling Killer Lung Disease

## News & Info

- Page 10 SEUPB Showcases PEACE and INTERREG Programmes in European Parliament
- Page 11 PEACE IV Project Launches with Special Christmas Carol Service
- Page 12 New Marine Science Project Launches
- Page 13 New Environment Project set to Improve Bathing Water Quality

## Project News

- Page 14 Improving Independence for Older People with New €8.7m Cross–Border Project
- Page 15 €5.8m Cross–Border Supercluster to ‘Power’ Renewable Energy
- Pages 16 & 17 Regional Projects Healing Division
- Page 18 INTERREG VB/VC Programme Updates
- Page 19 Targeted Call on Renewable Energy in 2018

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 Winter/Spring edition of Your EU!

**Looking back, 2017 was a challenging but rewarding year for the SEUPB. We issued a significant number of funding awards and assisted newly funded projects to get underway.**

2018 will present new opportunities for the programmes as we move towards full commitment for both PEACE IV and INTERREG VA.

A number of fantastic projects are already delivering upon their objectives, and others are starting to mobilise, including those funded under the Regional and Children and Young People objectives of the PEACE IV Programme.

We also recently announced a funding award of €35.3m of PEACE IV funding to deliver 'Shared Education'. This funding will help bring together school children and teachers from different communities and backgrounds across the region in a shared learning environment.

It will reach 144,000 young people in 350 schools, on a cross-border basis, with 2,100 teachers trained with the capacity to facilitate 'Shared Education'.

In November we held a showcase event in the European Parliament in Brussels. The two-day, interactive exhibition, which was co-sponsored by three Northern Ireland MEP's and four Irish Border MEP's, was

specifically designed to highlight the impact that EU funding, through the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes, has had across the eligible region.

We were delighted that the EU Commissioner, Corina Crețu and both the Irish Ambassador to the EU, Declan Kelleher, and Deputy UK Ambassador to the EU, Katrina Williams delivered keynote speeches as part of the event.

Future funding opportunities after the UK leaves the EU are already being discussed as part of the Brexit negotiations. A desire to continue with cross-border EU funding programmes has been voiced by both the Irish and UK Governments.

In a joint report from the negotiators of the EU, both the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes were specifically mentioned in the context of future funding.

The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, (when addressing the European Parliament) also recently said that future peace funding would be included within the next multi-annual financial framework. It is our intention to fully implement the current round of programmes and we are optimistic about future EU programmes opportunities for the region.



In this edition we also have updates on the exciting CLIMATE and NICHE projects under the INTERREG VB / VC Programmes and special details on a €50m renewable energy funding call under the Interreg North West Europe Programme.

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

# €5.3m Cross-Border Sustainable Water Quality Improvement Project Launched

**Source To Tap, a new cross-border, INTERREG VA funded environment project recently held a special launch event to mark the beginning of its €5.3m initiative, which will improve water quality in rivers and lakes in the Erne and Derg catchment areas.**

These areas provide water serving parts of counties Fermanagh, Tyrone, Donegal, Cavan, Leitrim and Longford.

Speaking at the launch event NI Water's Chairperson Dr. Len O'Hagan reflected: "This project will enhance at source the quality of water for thousands of homes, businesses, schools and hospitals across the region."

"Innovation, sustainability and partnership are at its core. Partnership between Governments on both sides of the border; partnership with the SEUPB who are the principal funder of the work; partnership between various government agencies; and most significant of all, partnership between ourselves, the local community and all those for whom the natural environment is such a precious resource."

"Working together it will help protect raw water quality at source across both jurisdictions by reducing the contaminants getting into the water



**Improving water quality in the Erne and Derg catchment areas with new INTERREG VA funded environment project.**

in the first place and raise awareness of the importance of protecting our precious drinking water resource."

Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "This project will help to deliver upon one of the core objectives of the EU's INTERREG VA Programme as it will improve water quality on a cross-border basis. It reflects larger European policy under the Water Framework Directive, which has been specifically designed to combat water pollution and ensure clean drinking water for all citizens."

"The project also represents a unique cross-border partnership that has developed a range of new and creative practices which will reduce drinking water treatment costs and help protect the environment," she continued.

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

# €4.9m Transformative Conservation Project Officially Launches

**The €4.9m Co-operation Across Borders for Biodiversity (CABB) project, funded under the INTERREG VA Programme, recently held an event close to the Garron Plateau Special Area of Conservation to celebrate the official launch of its collaborative environmental project.**

Spanning across Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland the project will improve habitats for birds, butterflies and other species; restore blanket bog and help produce drinking water at a lower cost.

It is being delivered through a partnership between lead partner, RSPB Northern Ireland (NI), RSPB Scotland, BirdWatch Ireland, Butterfly Conservation, NI Water and Moors for the Future.

The project will see 2,228 hectares of blanket bog restored across the three countries.

RSPB NI is writing Conservation Action Plans for the Garron Plateau SAC, Montiags Moss Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in County Fermanagh, while Butterfly Conservation is working with landowners and volunteers at a number of sites to improve the conditions for the marsh fritillary butterfly.

Welcoming the official launch of the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the

SEUPB said: “This innovative cross-border project will make a significant contribution to the protection of the precious natural habitats of vulnerable wildlife found across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland. In doing so it will help to deliver the environmental protection objectives of the INTERREG VA Programme and also make a real contribution towards the EU’s Birds and Habitats Directives.”

Speaking at the launch, Joanne Sherwood, Director RSPB NI, said: “We are delighted to be leading the CABB project and we are particularly thankful for SEUPB’s support. This is key European funding for what is a

vital conservation project. CABB is the largest project that RSPB NI has been involved in to date and I have no doubt that, along with our partners, we will improve habitats and deliver great things for bogs, butterflies and birds across Northern Ireland, Scotland and Ireland.”

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



**Celebrating the launch are (l-r): Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB; Clive Mellon, Chair of RSPB NI Committee and Dymphna Gallagher, Head of Safety and Drinking Water Regulation at NI Water.**

# Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Celebrate New £4.9m PEACE IV Programme

**The new £4.9m PEACE IV Programme for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon has been designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.**

The Council will implement a series of projects, initiatives and events under three priorities - Children and Young People, Shared Spaces and Services, and Building Positive Relations, with an emphasis on the delivery of sports, community and good relations projects across the Council until 2020.

Projects will range from youth sports initiatives to dialogue programmes and training opportunities, through to interventions in areas of social deprivation, focusing on addressing sectarianism and racism, and will provide opportunities to reach those most affected by inequality, segregation and limited life choices.

One of the flagship projects will be the development of a new floodlit 3G multi-sports pitch at St Patrick's College in Banbridge. This £1.5m partnership project will provide a new sports and recreation resource for the school, local clubs and the wider community.

Addressing the audience at the launch event the Lord Mayor of

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Alderman Gareth Wilson said: "We are delighted that the new PEACE IV project is tailored to a common need and places a strong emphasis on breaking down barriers, improving community relations, providing sporting, recreation and training opportunities and creating spaces that all residents and communities can share."

Discussing the funding award Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "Local authority-led partnerships like Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon play an instrumental role in ensuring that EU PEACE funding is delivered where it is needed most. They represent the public, private and community sectors and as such, are ideally placed to ensure that the funding provided promotes peace and reconciliation at a local level."



**Pictured at the recent PEACE IV Launch in Armagh are (l-r): Tony Kennedy, Joint Chairman, ABC PEACE IV Partnership; Brenda Hegarty, Programme Manager SEUPB; Alderman Gareth Wilson, Lord Mayor Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and John Devaney, PEACE IV Programme Manager.**

# €35.3m of EU PEACE IV Funding Offered to Promote ‘Shared Education’

**€35.3m worth of EU PEACE IV funding was recently announced to help deliver ‘Shared Education’, bringing school children and teachers from different communities and backgrounds across the region together in a shared learning environment.**

The PEACE IV Programme aims to reach 144,000 young people in 350 schools, on a cross-border basis, with approximately 2,100 teachers trained with the capacity to facilitate shared education.

Support will be targeted at schools and other educational settings with no, or limited experience of providing shared education opportunities to their children.

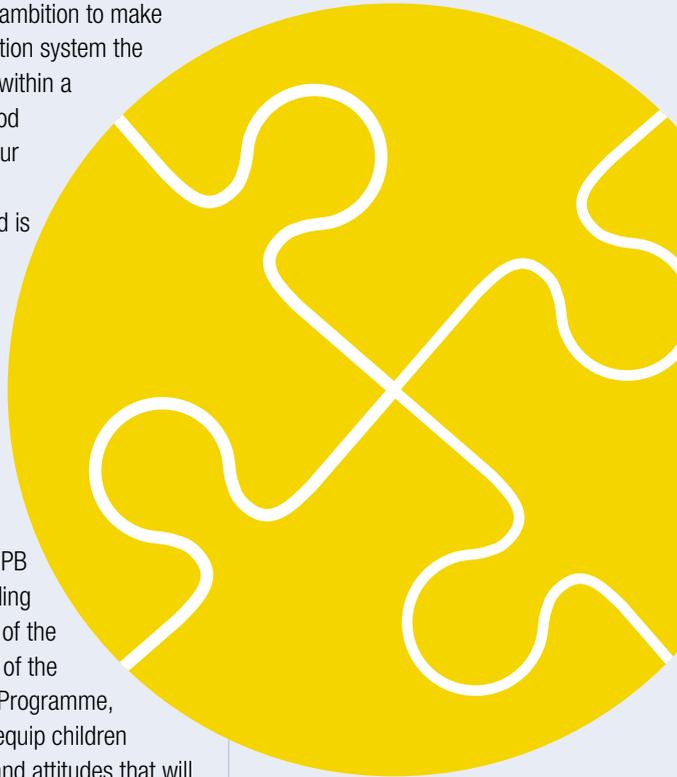
Welcoming the funding, Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Education and Skills in Ireland said:

“This funding will have a really meaningful impact on thousands of students in hundreds of schools north and south of the border, by giving them the opportunity to work with and learn from communities different than their own. The experience gained during participation in ‘Shared Education’ will ensure our students have a better understanding of communities on both sides of the border.”

“I have set the ambition to make Ireland’s education system the best in Europe within a decade and good relations with our neighbours in Northern Ireland is important to delivering on this ambition.” he continued.

Underlining the importance of the funding Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: “This funding will deliver one of the core objectives of the EU’s PEACE IV Programme, which aims to equip children with the skills and attitudes that will help in fostering a culture of good relations within the region. This positive approach will help in breaking a cycle of intolerance and sectarianism.”

Recognising the impact that the funding will make Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education said: “This significant investment will enable schools that have not previously engaged in shared education to do so, allowing many more children and young people to learn together on a cross-community and cross-border basis.”



**€35.3m of PEACE IV funding to benefit thousands of students in hundreds of schools, North and South of the Border.**

Match-funding for ‘Shared Education’ has been provided by the Department of Education in Northern Ireland and the Department of Education and Skills in Ireland.

# INTERREG VA Funding Tackling

## Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) takes over 600,000 lives a year in the EU.

Currently the UK's third biggest killer, COPD is an incurable respiratory condition characterised by progressive narrowing of the airways and irreversible structural damage leading to breathing difficulties and lung failure. Often unrecognised and undiagnosed, it is sometimes referred to as the 'invisible' lung disease.

Northern Ireland, Ireland and the South West of Scotland have some of the highest rates of COPD in the world. COPD-related hospital admission is higher in Ireland than any other developed country and based on emergency admissions to hospital, Northern Ireland and the South West of Scotland are recognised as regions of high COPD prevalence. The total annual cost of COPD to the NHS is estimated to be over £800m in direct healthcare costs.



**Pictured at the BREATH project launch event are (l-r): Dr Lorcan McGarvey, Consultant Respiratory Physician from the Wellcome - Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine at Queen's University Belfast; Nicola Roe, a BREATH doctoral student from Queen's University Belfast and Dr Keith Thornbury, Dundalk Institute of Technology.**

Despite the significant health challenge, progress in treatment has been limited, remaining a relatively under-resourced and under-researched illness that continues to be a disease of global significance and regional burden.

However a new pioneering, cross-border research project aims to change this.

Currently in receipt of €7.7m of INTERREG VA Programme funding, the BREATH project (Border and Regions Airways Training Hub) was designed to better understand and alleviate the impact of the disease.

The project just recently was the recipient of the very prestigious 'Project of the Year' award at the Northern Ireland Healthcare Awards 2018.

Your EU recently caught up with Dr Keith Thornbury, from the Dundalk Institute of Technology to learn more about this exciting project.

### What is this project?

BREATH harnesses the expertise of three different groups of Partners (based in Dundalk Institute of Technology, Queen's University Belfast and the University of the West of Scotland), each with different skills, to fight COPD. By combining our complementary skills we will develop a uniquely equipped team to fight this disease.

We are approaching the problem on three fronts. Firstly we will carry out novel scientific and medical research



**Dr Keith Thornbury, project lead for BREATH.**

on the condition. We will also train a cohort of 26 new researchers to fight the disease and finally we will increase public awareness so that people can improve their lifestyles to reduce the risk of developing COPD and also become aware of its symptoms so that earlier diagnosis is possible.

### How did the project develop?

The team in Dundalk had been studying airway smooth muscle for several years, with a view to developing new drugs to treat airway disease. We became aware of the INTERREG VA funding and knew this would afford us with the rare opportunity to scale up our operations by setting up a large, cross-border collaboration, geared towards fighting lung disease.

We approached colleagues in Queen's, and after several meetings, it was agreed that we should focus our efforts on COPD. We then approached the team in Scotland as we knew their expertise in the inflammatory aspects of arthritis would be easily transferrable to COPD research. When they looked at a map highlighting the frightening incidence of COPD in the West of Scotland they were convinced!

### How did you get involved and what is your role?

As an active biomedical researcher I was already concerned with the high

# Killer Lung Disease



**The pioneering cross – border BREATH research project will work to better understand and ultimately alleviate the impact of lung disease.**

incidence of COPD and asthma in Ireland and the UK. I was originally trained as a doctor and have witnessed the suffering of patients in the later stages of COPD. It left an indelible impression on me. I was very keen on a collaboration that would specifically look at COPD.

I am the Project Lead, responsible for all of the major decisions in the planning and progress of the project and work closely with the other Principal Investigators and members of our External Advisory Committee, which includes experts from industry and healthcare, to make decisions.

I am very fortunate to also be directly involved with the project's scientific research and have the privilege of supervising new PhD students whose efforts are largely focussed on full-time research in the laboratory.

## **You mentioned about raising public awareness?**

Yes. There are two levels we want to work on to raise public awareness of the illness.

One is to make susceptible people, mainly older people, or their relatives, aware that they may have the condition at what we call the subclinical level, i.e. not bothering them enough to go to the doctor. As people get older they may not realise that a persistent cough that goes on for several months may be a sign of COPD. They may also ignore signs like chest tightness or wheezing or shortness of breath when they exert

themselves. Although we can't cure COPD, by picking it up early, we can slow its progress.

The other level is to increase general awareness of the extent of the problem, so that people will develop better lifestyles, such as not smoking, and encourage them, where possible, to reduce their exposure to environmental pollutants, such as diesel fumes.

## **How will you increase general awareness?**

We currently have 17 new PhD students, with a further 3 to be recruited. Each of these students will become an ambassador for BREATH and will visit schools to engage with children (aged 10 – 11 years), educating them on the benefits of lung health through interactive science and technology events.

We will also organise visits to community and patient groups in collaboration with other organisations including the British Lung Foundation, European Lung Foundation and Chest Heart and Stroke. Just last September we engaged with 17 and 18 year olds and adults during an event in the Ulster

Museum called *Science Uncovered*. They participated in sessions where they measured lung function and were made aware of what it is like when normal function fails, just as in COPD.

## **If you can leave us with one final note.**

I have already alluded to our goal of setting up a large team consisting of people with different, but complementary skills, that will allow us to tackle COPD on a new level. The project goes far beyond the development of the unique team. We want to use our INTERREG funding to create a research platform that will extend into the future, well beyond the initial funding period of the project. This is one of the reasons why training new researchers is vitally important. Our hope is that most of them will continue to work in this field. Some will establish themselves in different parts of the world, thus sustaining and spreading the network.



**Professor Lorraine Martin & The Breath Team, With Mark Osborne (Teva Respiratory), and John Hamill (Lead Practice Based Pharmacist At South Belfast Federation) following Their Victory At The 2018 NI Healthcare Awards.**

# SEUPB Showcases PEACE and INTERREG Programmes in European Parliament

**In November 2017, the SEUPB delivered a major two-day showcase exhibition in the European Parliament in Brussels.**

The event was designed to specifically highlight the impact that EU funding, through the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes, has had across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

The event was co-sponsored by First Vice-President Mairead McGuinness, Martina Anderson, Matt Carthy, Diane Dodds, Luke 'Ming' Flanagan, Marian Harkin and Jim Nicholson.

Past and present PEACE and INTERREG projects formed part of the exhibition, representing the type of work that has been supported by the EU over the past two decades.

As part of the event, an evening reception was hosted for over 50 influential political figures and included a panel of project exhibitors. The reception was introduced by EU Commissioner Corina Creţu and both Irish Ambassador to the EU, Declan Kelleher, and UK Deputy Ambassador to the EU, Katrina Williams, addressed the audience.



**Past and present PEACE and INTERREG projects taking part in the exhibition.**



**EU Commissioner Corina Creţu addressing the audience at the showcase reception.**



**Irish Ambassador to the EU, Declan Kelleher, summarised the importance of EU funding to Ireland.**



**UK Deputy Ambassador to the EU, Katrina Williams, discussed the UK's role within the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.**

# PEACE IV Project Launches with Special Christmas Carol Service

**In December, the PEACE IV funded Waterside Shared Village project officially launched in true festive spirit by organising a cross-interface, cross-community lantern procession.**

'PEACE on Earth' saw children from Top of the Hill and Irish Street communities take part in the procession which ended in the River City Apostolic Church with a special carol service.

The Waterside Shared Village project is just one of 22 projects currently in receipt of funding under the £2m PEACE IV Programme for Derry City and Strabane District Council.

Speaking at the event were Alison Wallace, from the Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership and Alderman Drew Thompson, Chair of Derry City and Strabane District Council's PEACE IV Partnership.

The project received £500,000 of PEACE IV funding and is one of the largest community-led projects under Derry City and Strabane District Council's PEACE IV programme.

It is managed by the Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership, in connection with the Irish Street Community Association and Hillcrest Trust and will deliver a range of cross-community and reconciliation programmes for all ages in this interface area.



Children taking part in the lantern procession.



PEACE IV Board Members, Councillor Christopher Jackson (SF) and Alderman Drew Thompson (DUP), joining Father Canny in carol singing at the PEACE IV funded project launch.

# New Marine Science Project Launches

**An exciting new marine science project studying the seas around Ireland, Western Scotland and Northern Ireland was recently launched in Ballycastle, overlooking Rathlin Sound.**

The €6.3m INTERREG VA funded COMPASS project, led and co-ordinated by researchers from the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), will connect the regions' leading marine research Institutes to form a cross-border network to protect vulnerable marine species and increase our understanding of ocean life in our seas.

The project will create a state-of-the-art network of buoys to effectively track, model and monitor aquatic life and the oceanographic processes which influence them across the seas that surround Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

Welcoming the funding the Scottish Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: "It is fantastic news that this ambitious programme of work is being funded. The monitoring will provide valuable information to help manage Scotland's marine biodiversity and contribute to achieving Scotland's vision of clean, safe, healthy and biologically diverse seas."

"I'm delighted that Scotland is playing such a crucial role in this



**Stakeholders of the COMPASS project join SEUPB CEO Gina McIntyre at its launch.**

collaborative international project, bringing significant skills and resources from both Marine Scotland Science and the Scottish Association for Marine Science," she continued.

Reflecting on the funding, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, said: "Meeting some of the key environmental protection objectives of the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, this project will help monitor and manage more effectively the marine protected areas and species across Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland now and in the future, and in so doing also create an invaluable cross-border partnership."

"Over the years the European Union has established a robust policy framework to address the multiple challenges facing our shared marine environment. This project will serve to further EU policy in this area and provide invaluable information relating to ocean acidification and the long-term impact of ambient noise on sea-life," she continued.

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

# New Environment Project set to Improve Bathing Water Quality

**An INTERREG VA funded environment project recently celebrated its official launch in a special event in Titanic, Belfast.**

The €1m SWIM project (or System for Bathing Water quality Monitoring) will enable short-term water pollution to be accurately predicted, relaying details on the quality of bathing water to the public via text alerts, website updates and electronic signage strategically installed at the entrances to beaches, on both sides of the border.

The project will give water resource managers immediate knowledge of the status of local seawater quality, enabling them to take the appropriate mitigating actions to limit the damage caused by pollution. It will also support the region in terms of meeting high marine quality standards alongside its commitments under the EU bathing Water and Water Framework Directives.

Announcing the funding offer, Gina McIntyre CEO of the SEUPB, stated: "This project represents a real step change in how bathing water quality is monitored on both sides of the border. It will provide immediate and accurate information to the general public, allowing them to better enjoy our shared marine environment."

A spokesperson for the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs said: "We are delighted that

the SWIM project has got to this stage. Despite the investments that have been made in sewerage infrastructure and agricultural improvements, some of our beaches are still susceptible to pollution events in wet weather. Warmer, wetter summers mean that we can expect heavy summer deluges, (which impact on water quality), to continue. The SWIM project will protect bathers by ensuring they are pre-warned of possible pollution

events. When the public has been warned, the Department can then discount those results, thereby improving overall compliance with the European standards."

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 SWIM launch event are (l-r): Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB; Ian Humphreys, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful; Greg O'Hare, University College Dublin; Malcom Taylor Agri-Food Biosciences Institute and Nichola Connery from DAERA.**

# Improving Independence for Older People with New €8.7m Cross – Border Project

**The €8.7million INTERREG VA funded mPower project, which will support 2,500 people through the development of well-being plans, and 4,500 people through e-Health interventions, recently held a special event in Edinburgh to help officially launch the beginning of the project.**

mPower aims to empower patients to take control of their conditions at home by using technology, while simultaneously freeing up GPs and other healthcare professionals so that they can treat more people.

At the event Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, was joined by public and third sector partners from Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland to announce the project.

Speaking ahead of the launch, she said: “The mPower initiative illustrates how people can interact with digital technology to support and manage their health and well-being and it is crucial we look to innovation as we design a health and social care system that is fit for the changing needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> century Scotland.”

mPower Project Manager Alan Connor said: “Around 66% of people in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Scotland will have one or more long term conditions by the age of 65, so promoting self-care at home is an important step in alleviating the pressure the health service faces, while enabling people to better manage their conditions. We’re all excited to see the difference mPower could make to the future of healthcare.”

Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, also spoke at the launch event stating: “I am delighted to be able to share in the launch of this novel cross-border project which will help thousands of older people across Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland live longer with more confidence in their own homes and communities.”

“It also reflects larger scale EU health and social care policies in relation to the promotion of e-Health based initiatives, by helping citizen’s manage their own health and well-being through the use of innovative technologies.”

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



**Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB joins the members of mPower Project Board for the official launch of the project in Edinburgh.**

# €5.8m Cross-Border Supercluster to ‘Power’ Renewable Energy

**The INTERREG VA funded Renewable Engine project is aiming to ramp up the commercialisation of new products and processes across the renewable energy sector, providing companies with access to world class facilities and resources through academic partners.**

The ground-breaking, cross-border research and innovation ‘supercluster’, which will be created as a direct result of this project, will deliver focused research and innovation support to companies specialising in renewable energy and advanced manufacturing.

The four-year project will see companies such as Kingspan, CDEnviro, Organic Power and Doosan Babcock paired with 12 specialist PhD researchers.

Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: “This project will help to address the low levels of industry relevant Research and Innovation within the renewable energy sector and help participating firms become more innovation active. It will provide companies, on a cross-border basis, with access to world-class facilities and resources and in doing so help to realise one of the core objectives of the EU’s INTERREG VA Programme.”



**Pictured at the official launch of the €5.8m Renewable Engine project are (l-r): Alistair Quinn, Renewable Engine Programme Manager; Rachel Coulter, Post-Doctoral Researcher at South West College and Paul Boylan, Programme Manager at SEUPB.**

Also speaking at the launch event was Alistair Quinn, Renewable Engine Programme Manager, who noted: “Innovation, often driven by market need and technological advancement, is almost always created within commercially-focused, forward-thinking companies, but not every company has the dedicated research and collaborative support it needs to advance this in a way or within a timescale they would like.”

“The Renewable Engine project will effectively plug this gap, delivering

focused and committed talent, education and skills to a range of areas that will propel projects forward and generate a range of benefits to the companies themselves, while advancing our competitive strengths in this area for the best economic advantage.

Match-funding has been provided by the Department of Economy in Northern Ireland, and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland.

# Regional Projects Healing Division

In the last edition of Your EU we reported that €13.9m of PEACE IV funding had been allocated to 13 regional projects to help heal division. Below are a few examples of these projects.

► **CROSSING BORDERS  
BREAKING BOUNDARIES**  
EU Funding Value: €933,490.87

The project will tackle sectarianism, discrimination, racism and exploitation experienced by EU and non-EU migrants in precarious and insecure sectors of the labour market along the Border region of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

**Lead Partner: The Migrant Rights Centre Ireland**

Project Partners: Community Intercultural Programme, Irish Congress of Trade Unions (Northern Ireland) and Ulster University.



► **THEATRE PEACE BUILDING ACADEMY**  
EU Funding Value: €859,069.50

The project will use theatre as a tool to explore community relations issues in a safe and accessible environment. An estimated 76 cross-community participants will be reached delivering approximately 2,200 hours of collaborative working time.

**Lead Partner: The North West Play Resource Centre**

Project Partners: Holywell Trust, Queens University Belfast and Thomas D'Arcy McGee.



▶ **YOUTH NETWORK FOR PEACE (YNP)**  
**EU Funding Value: €1,079,078.25**

The project will develop a regional, cross-border, youth-led network of 10,000 diverse young people (aged 15–25 years) across Northern

Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. Participating young people will be from a range of backgrounds including: Protestant-Catholic, rural-urban, male-female, LGB&T, BME, NEET, migrant, traveller, ROMA and Garda Diversion.

**Lead Partner: Youth Action NI**

Project Partners: Northern Ireland Youth Forum; Young Farmer's Clubs of Ulster; Bytes; Fóram na nÓg; Co-operation Ireland; Foróige; Irish Youth Foundation; Youth Work Ireland; Youth Work Ireland Louth; Youth Work Ireland Monaghan; Donegal Youth Service; Macra na Feirme.



▶ **PROMOTING RECONCILIATION AND INTEGRATION THROUGH SAFE MEDIATION (PRISM)**  
**EU Funding Value: €754,527.58**

The project will deliver bespoke attitudinal change initiatives within seven geographic locations across Northern Ireland.

Approximately 910 participants from the Catholic, Protestant, Refugee,

Asylum Seekers and Vulnerable Migrant communities will take part in user led 'contact models' that will explore perceived tension points, identify commonalities and develop integration pathways.

**Lead Partner: The British Red Cross**

Project Partners: ArtsEkta, Corrymeela, The Irish Red Cross and The International Committee of the Red Cross.

▶ **EXTERN POSITIVE LEARNING PROGRAMME**  
**EU Funding Value: €1,601,797.23**

The Programme is the first of its kind in the North West region and is focused on enabling offenders to explore their own sense of community, prejudices, identity &

diversity and improve good relations as they reintegrate back into society.

**Lead Partner: Extern**

Project Partners: The Probation Service Ireland, The Probation Service Northern Ireland, NI Prison Service and the Irish Prison Service.



# INTERREG VB / VC Programme Updates

## The CLIMATE Programme

**The €1.37m CLIMATE project 'Collaborative Learning Initiative Managing and Adapting to the Environment', funded under the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme, aims to promote and improve Climate Change awareness in European peripheral rural communities through a knowledge based approach and community led sustainable resource planning.**

Models of best practice will be identified in order to develop preparedness scale and risk registers to inform the production of Climate Adaptation Plans.

Launched in June 2017, it is being delivered across four different regions; Northern Ireland, Sweden, Ireland and the Faroe Islands. In addition,



**CLIMATE Programme Steering Group Members.**

Associate Partners from Finland, Scotland, Norway and Iceland are also involved to ensure effective project reach both during, and after, the programme duration.

Recently Climate NI held a climate adaptation workshop with Derry and Strabane District Council representatives. The workshop introduced Council representatives to how their work already addresses adaptation and resilience; creating

an understanding on which to begin development of a full adaptation strategy. It also provided an opportunity to assess how the Council can contribute to the new Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme which will be released in early 2019.

For more info on the project go to <http://www.interreg-npa.eu/projects/funded-projects/project/200/>

## NICHE – Building Innovation Food Value Chains in Regions

**The €1.7m INTERREG Europe funded 'NICHE – Building Innovation Food Value Chains in Regions' is being delivered by Derry City & Strabane District Council in partnership with six European regions - Finland, Romania, Crete, Poland, Estonia and Donegal.**

By 2019 the project aims to achieve an average 15% increase in the adoption of research and innovation solutions by food sector companies within their respective regions.

The project will establish

ecosystems that will last beyond the projects lifecycle and will support the local food sector by:

- providing opportunities to learn from peers in Europe facing similar challenges and opportunities.
- affording opportunities to benefit from food innovation industry events.
- and providing industry growth through the development of a new food and drink strategy.

For more information go to <https://www.interregeurope.eu/niche/>



**Derry City and Strabane District Council hosted a major conference in the city which was attended by delegates from seven European regions involved in NICHE, an INTERREG Europe funded project aimed at developing best practice in relation to food innovation.**

# Targeted Call on Renewable Energy in 2018

**North-West Europe is one of the highest energy consuming regions in the EU and faces a number of energy-related challenges.**

NWE regions need to improve renewable energy distribution and generation infrastructure to reach the EU 2030 targets and to reduce GHG emissions.

As a result, the Interreg North West Europe Programme will launch a targeted call to support projects that will contribute to increasing the share of renewable energy supply and demand in North-West Europe.

Particular focus will be on projects that deal with demonstration, implementation and roll-out, and contribute to one of the Specific Objectives of Priority 2: Low carbon. Thus, all guiding principles mentioned in the Cooperation Programme under each Specific Objective apply.

## **Funding available**

Over the lifetime of the programme, €372 million of ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) will be allocated to the most qualitative and innovative projects.

For this call, a maximum of €50m ERDF is available under Priority 2 Low Carbon.

All projects must have match-funding at submission of application. The maximum ERDF grant rate for partners is 60% of the total project budget. The partnership will need to provide the remainder.

## **Application**

The application must include: all details on the project's intended change and result, the full partnership, the project work plan and budget. Project proposals must be submitted in English and only through the Interreg NWE portal (eMS).

## **Who can apply?**

Applicants from the seven EU Member States (Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom) and the non-Member State

of Switzerland. A wide range of bodies are entitled to take part in NWE project partnerships including national, regional and local authorities, universities, R&D agencies, non-profit organisations as well as private partners, including profit-making partners (e.g. SMEs). Projects should bring together partners from at least three different countries of which two must be from within the NWE area.

## **Deadline**

The deadline for the call will be NOON (CET) on the **31st of July, 2018.**

For more info on the call visit: <http://www.nweurope.eu/news-events/latest-news/new-targeted-call-on-renewable-energy/>

# Interreg EUROPEAN UNION

## North-West Europe

European Regional Development Fund

**€50m ERDF devoted to supporting renewable energy.**

# 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,  
Tel: +44 (0) 28 8225 5750  
E: omagh@seupb.eu or Belfast,  
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660  
E: info@seupb.eu

## 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:

Joint Secretariat,  
Monaghan.  
Tel: + 353 (0)47 77003  
E: monaghan@seupb.eu or

Caroline Coleman, National Contact Point for Scotland, Scotland  
Europa, 150 Broomielaw,  
Atlantic Quay, Glasgow G2 8LU.  
Tel: +44 (0) 141 228 2202  
E: Caroline.Coleman@scotland.co.uk

## 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 €396 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:

Declan McGarrigle at the SEUPB Belfast office:  
Tel: + 44 (0) 28 9026 6678  
E: declan.mcgarri@seupb.eu

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