



# PEACE PLUS

# Community & Voluntary Sector



# PEACE PLUS Programme



The PEACE PLUS Programme is a **€1bn investment** in the social, economic and environmental development of Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

It comprises **six themes**, which encompass **21 individual investment areas**.



# Community & Voluntary Sector and PEACE PLUS



- The Community & Voluntary sector has a vital role to play in the creation of a more peaceful and prosperous society. Everyone in the Programme area has the potential to contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous society.
- Hence, **Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities (€210m)** is entirely focused upon investment in Community & Voluntary Sector led peace and reconciliation initiatives.
- Continued and considered investment in proven pathways to reconciliation is required to build peaceful and thriving communities. The selected investment areas have been developed to ***optimise engagement and participation across all ages, communities and sectors.***

# Community & Voluntary Sector and PEACE PLUS



- **Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities** comprises four individual investment areas:
  - **1.1 Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plans €90m**
  - **1.2 Empowering Communities €30m**
  - **1.3 Building Positive Relations €30m**
  - **1.4 Re-imaging Communities €60m**
- There are other investment areas within PEACE PLUS, which although not exclusively for the Community & Voluntary Sector, will provide significant opportunities for sectoral involvement (**Themes 2,3,4,5 and 6**).

# 1.1 Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plans €90m



The **Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plans** will enable diverse partnerships to establish priority actions for their local areas and collectively address these in a manner which will make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation.

Actions within the localised plans will span the range of ***social, environmental and economic interventions*** included within the PEACE PLUS Programme. However, principally, the plans will be centred around three core themes:

1. **Local community regeneration and transformation;**
2. **Thriving and peaceful communities;** and
3. **Building respect for all cultural identities.**

# 1.1 Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plans €90m



## Supported actions will include:

- The *preparation of 17 overarching PEACE PLUS Action Plans* (one for each local authority area).
- The *creation of PEACE PLUS Local Community Partnerships* for designated cluster areas which collectively comprise all areas within each local authority district.
- The *development of a Co-designed PEACE Action Plan by each PEACE PLUS Local Community Partnership*. These plans will span the range of activities included within the PEACE PLUS Programme, for example: youth; health and wellbeing; community regeneration; social innovation; social enterprise and education and skills development programmes. These Programmes will address issues of racism and sectarianism, increase social inclusion and promote civil leadership.

# 1.2 Empowering Communities €30m



The **Empowering Communities Programme** will develop the institutional capacity of community, voluntary and statutory organisations to embed and promote peace and reconciliation practice and services. It comprises three programme strands:

- ***Strand 1: The Empowering Communities to Embed Peace Small Grants Programme*** will support the delivery of people to people projects by local community organisations through the provision of a small grants programme.
- ***Strand 2: The Institutional Capacity Development Programme*** will ensure issues related to Trust and Leadership are supported through collaborative actions between key voluntary, statutory and political institutions across multiple levels.
- ***Strand 3: The Community-Based Safety Interventions Programme*** will support projects with the potential to improve peace and reconciliation within local communities.

# 1.2 Empowering Communities €30m



Supported actions will include:

- ***Peace and reconciliation projects***, including anti-sectarian initiatives (funded through a small grants programme), which incorporate significant and sustained contact between individuals and groups from different community, cultural and political backgrounds; the outcomes of which are clearly linked to improved community relations.
- ***Projects designed to support the development of the institutional capacity of key voluntary, statutory and political organisations***, including those with an emphasis on trust and leadership, which will lead to the creation of new models of service delivery; and
- ***Local community safety interventions*** designed to contribute to increased levels of peace and reconciliation.

## 1.3 Building Positive Relations €30m



- The **Building Positive Relations Programme** will provide support for projects which transcend local boundaries and have the potential to achieve significant peace and reconciliation across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.
- The Programme will place ***particular emphasis on providing support to those most marginalised within our communities*** (including migrants and refugees); those living with disability; those with issues arising from the legacy of the conflict including ex-prisoners and ex-security service personnel; members of the Traveller Community; and those from the LGBT community.

## 1.3 Building Positive Relations €30m



### Supported actions will include:

- Projects which help ***build the capacity of regional and local organisations*** through cross community and cross border collaboration.
- Projects which facilitate ***conflict resolution (including anti-sectarian initiatives)*** which contribute towards building positive relations.
- Projects which increase ***civic participation***, including that by minority and newcomer communities (this may include the requirement for language support).
- Projects which facilitate ***positive cultural expression*** within diverse communities and will lead to mutual trust and respect for each other.
- Projects which develop new ***community leadership*** and enhance the capacity of existing community leaders and volunteers to promote and facilitate peace and reconciliation.
- Projects which ***showcase the benefits of cross community and cross border contact*** to achieve greater community cohesion.

# 1.4 Reimagining Communities €60m



- A legacy of the conflict are the prevalent and persistent physical and psychological divisions that limit our society.
- The **Re-Imaging Communities Programme** is a transformative re-imagining programme, which will create new significant shared spaces for use by all communities; or increase the shared usage of existing facilities.
- It will result in ***an increased number of individuals and groups utilising shared spaces and accessing shared services*** in a manner which will support and embed peace and reconciliation.

# 1.4 Reimagining Communities €60m



## Supported actions will include:

- The development of ***new shared spaces*** which will have a transformative effect on local areas and enable shared usage by groups and individuals from different community, cultural and political backgrounds; particularly within those communities which have been most impacted by the conflict.
- ***Programmes which support the sustained cross community usage of new and re-imaged community spaces and facilitate access to shared services.*** including those related to children and young people; health and wellbeing; social enterprise; education; arts and culture; tourism and heritage; and sport and recreation.

# 1.4 Reimagining Communities €60m



## Supported actions will include:

- Actions which will enable key representatives and leaders of different communities to collaborate and co-design re-imaging projects on a cross border and or cross community basis.
- Actions which will result in the re-imaging of existing spaces; including the removal of sectarian symbols and emblems to encourage increased shared usage and deliver significant peace and reconciliation outcomes for the entire community.

# Community & Voluntary Sector and PEACE PLUS



PEACE PLUS includes other investment areas which not exclusively for the Community & Voluntary Sector, provide significant opportunity for sectoral involvement as follows:

THEME	INVESTMENT AREA
<b>2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation</b>	<b>2.3 Programme Area Skills Development Programme</b>
	<b>2.4 Smart Towns and Villages</b>
<b>3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People</b>	<b>3.1 Shared Learning Together Programme</b>
	<b>3.2 PEACE PLUS Youth Programme</b>
	<b>3.3 Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing</b>
<b>4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities</b>	<b>4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care</b>
	<b>4.2 Rural Regeneration &amp; Social Inclusion</b>
<b>5. Supporting a Sustainable and Better Connected Future</b>	<b>5.1 Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience</b>
<b>6: Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration</b>	<b>6.2 Managing and Forging Relationships Between Citizens</b>

# Theme 2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation



INVESTMENT AREA	C&V SECTOR ALIGNMENT
<b>2.3 Programme Area Skills Development (€35m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• will support area-based approaches to <b><i>address emerging skills requirements, including those within the Community &amp; Voluntary Sector</i></b>, with a particular focus on peace and reconciliation.</li></ul>
<b>2.4 Smart Towns and Villages (€30m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• will support stakeholders including the Community &amp; Voluntary Sector to lead the <b><i>transformation of vacant spaces within town and village centres for communal recreational and social usage</i></b>.</li><li>• will support social enterprise / innovation led <b><i>projects designed to apply advanced ICT to create new models of social service and economic development</i></b> across the Programme area, with a particular focus on rural areas.</li></ul>

# Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People



THEME	C&V SECTOR ALIGNMENT
<b>3.1 Shared Learning Together Programme (€45m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will provide <b><i>direct and sustained contact between children from all backgrounds</i></b> in early childhood settings, schools and youth organisations, to promote good relations and enhance children’s skills to contribute to a cohesive society.</li> <li>• will provide increased opportunity for Community &amp; Voluntary Sector involvement through the incorporation of non-curricular youth to youth cross community and cross border projects.</li> </ul>
<b>3.2 PEACE PLUS Youth Programme (€45m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will <b><i>build the capacity of marginalised and disadvantaged young people</i></b> within the Programme area, while enhancing their employability.</li> <li>• will <b><i>provide opportunities for those Community &amp; Voluntary Sector organisations with expertise in working with young people</i></b> to develop and deliver related projects.</li> </ul>
<b>3.3 Youth Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing (€20m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will create opportunities for Community &amp; Voluntary sector organisations to develop <b><i>additional, non-formal approaches which will improve the lives of young people</i></b> across the Programme area.</li> </ul>

# Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities



INVESTMENT AREA	C&V SECTOR ALIGNMENT
<b>4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care (€80m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• will support the development of <b><i>additional, innovative community-based health care interventions</i></b>, which complement statutory provision (including social enterprise models).</li><li>• will present <b><i>opportunities for suitably experienced Community &amp; Voluntary Sector organisations</i></b> with the opportunity to develop and deliver such interventions</li></ul>
<b>4.2 Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion (€50m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• will support <b><i>social, economic and environmental projects, which contribute to the creation of healthy communities in rural areas.</i></b></li><li>• will include increased delivery of <b><i>family and community services</i></b>, and the development of <b><i>social enterprise programmes focused on health and wellbeing.</i></b></li><li>• will provide a range of <b><i>opportunities for involvement by rural Community &amp; Voluntary Sector organisations.</i></b></li></ul>

# Theme 5: Building a Sustainable and Better Connected Future



INVESTMENT AREA	C&V SECTOR ALIGNMENT
<b>5.1 Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience (€15m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• will focus upon <b><i>biodiversity and nature protection</i></b>.</li><li>• will include education initiatives and activities which <b><i>provide opportunities for community and voluntary organisations to get involved in climate action initiatives</i></b>.</li></ul>

# Theme 6: Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration



INVESTMENT AREA	C&V SECTOR ALIGNMENT
<b>6.2 Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens (€20m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• will finance <i>smaller projects that forge and maintain social and civic cohesion on a cross border basis.</i></li><li>• will provide <i>opportunities for cross border initiatives led by Community &amp; Voluntary Sector organisations.</i></li></ul>

# PEACE PLUS Public Consultation



The purpose of the public consultation is to provide citizens, and other key stakeholders, with an opportunity to share their views on the content and administrative arrangements of the PEACE PLUS Programme, findings from the Equality Screening exercise and the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The consultation started on **Wednesday 10 March 2021** and will end at 5pm on **Wednesday 12 May 2021**.

Information regarding how to respond to the Public Consultation can be found at:

<https://www.seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS>