



PEACE PLUS

Rural Communities



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**.



Rural Communities and PEACE PLUS



- Rural Communities have a vital role to play in the creation of a more peaceful and prosperous society.
- Therefore, PEACE PLUS includes a dedicated measure for Rural Communities within **Theme 4**:

4.2 Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion €50m

- There are other investment areas within PEACE PLUS, which although not exclusively for rural communities, will provide significant opportunities for sectoral involvement

(Themes 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6).

4.2 Rural Regeneration & Social Inclusion €50m



- This programme will incorporate ***a strengths based approach*** which enables rural communities to thrive and reach their full potential.
- It will include support ***for social, economic and environmental projects*** which will contribute to healthy communities in rural areas.
- It will increase the level of ***sustained cross community interaction in rural communities***, thus contributing to the creation of a more peaceful and prosperous society.

4.2 Rural Regeneration & Social Inclusion €50m



Supported actions will include:

- ***Community development human resources*** to progress strategic projects
- ***Family support services*** (from early years to older people)
- Resources to support ***diversification in the Agricultural Sector*** (including Social Farming)
- Rural specific ***social enterprise support programmes***
- ***Green infrastructure*** to promote active lifestyles and support enterprise and tourism in rural areas

Rural Communities and PEACE PLUS



PEACE PLUS includes other investment areas which not exclusively for rural communities, provide significant opportunity for sectoral involvement as follows:

THEME	INVESTMENT AREA
1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities	1.1 Co-designed Local PEACE Action Plans
	1.2 Empowering Communities
	1.3 Building Positive Relations
	1.4 Re-Imaging Communities
2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation	2.3 Programme Area Skills Development Programme
	2.4 Smart Towns and Villages
3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People	3.1 Shared Learning Together Programme
	3.2 PEACE PLUS Youth Programme
	3.3 Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing
4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities	4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care
5: Supporting a Sustainable and Better Connected Future	5.1 Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience
	6.2 Managing and Forging Relationships Between Citizens
6: Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration	

Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities



INVESTMENT AREA	RURAL COMMUNITIES ALIGNMENT
1.1 Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plans (€90m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will enable and empower council led local community partnerships, to co-design Local Community PEACE Action Plans.• will provide opportunities to develop priority projects within rural areas i.e. health and wellbeing, community regeneration and social enterprise.
1.2 Empowering Communities (€30m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will support the delivery of people-to-people projects, including those in rural communities by local Community & Voluntary Sector organisations through provision of a small grants programme.
1.3 Building Positive Relations (€30m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will present opportunities for Community & Voluntary Sector organisations with the capacity to deliver large, strategic peace and reconciliation projects, including those involving rural communities.
1.4 Re-Imaging Communities (€60m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will offer the potential to develop new and transform existing spaces into shared environments for use by all, including those in rural communities.

Theme 2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation



INVESTMENT AREA	RURAL COMMUNITIES ALIGNMENT
2.3 Programme Area Skills Development (€35m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will support area-based approaches to address existing and emerging skills requirements across the Programme area. It will include a focus upon rural areas.
2.4 Smart Towns and Villages Programme (€30m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will support social enterprise / innovation led projects designed to apply advanced ICT to create new models of social service and economic development across the Programme area, with a particular focus on rural areas.• will increase opportunities for remote working within rural communities, which will contribute to a more inclusive and balanced economy.

Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People



INVESTMENT AREA	RURAL COMMUNITIES ALIGNMENT
3.1 Shared Learning Together Programme (€45m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will provide <i>increased opportunity for non-curricular youth to youth cross community and cross border projects, including those in rural areas.</i> It will also encompass youth worker collaboration and development. Investment in digital technologies will <i>enable increased participation by schools in rural communities.</i>
3.2 PEACE PLUS Youth Programme (€45m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will <i>build the capacity of marginalised and disadvantaged young people while enhancing their employability, including those from rural areas.</i> The Programme includes a focus on addressing barriers to participation, including transport and as such, will provide increased opportunities for engagement by young people within rural communities.
3.3 Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing (€20m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will <i>increase the number of resilient young people with the capacity to be in control of their own lives</i> and make a positive contribution within their communities, including those in rural areas.

Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities



INVESTMENT AREA	RURAL COMMUNITIES ALIGNMENT
4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care (€80m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This investment area will support the development of innovative community-based health care interventions, which complement statutory provision (including social enterprise models). The Programme <i>includes a specific focus on redressing the health inequalities experienced by many people living in rural communities.</i>

Theme 5: Supporting a Sustainable and Better Connected Future



INVESTMENT AREA	RURAL COMMUNITIES ALIGNMENT
5.1 Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience (€15m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will focus upon biodiversity and nature protection and as such will directly benefit rural areas. It will include education initiatives and activities, which enable local communities to address climate change.• <i>will provide opportunities for rural based Community & Voluntary Sector organisations to get involved in climate action initiatives.</i>

Theme 6: Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration



INVESTMENT AREA	RURAL COMMUNITIES ALIGNMENT
6.2 Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens (€20m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• will finance smaller <i>projects that increase social and civic cohesion on a cross border basis.</i>• will provide opportunities for cross border initiatives led by Community & Voluntary Sector organisations, <i>including those located within and servicing rural communities.</i>

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>