



PEACE PLUS

Skills



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**.



Skills and PEACE PLUS



- Enhancing the skills base of the Programme area enables ***increased labour market mobility and inclusion***, particularly within those areas where legacy issues have prevented such developments to date.
- Investment in skills delivers economic benefits, whilst also ***contributing to a more cohesive and inclusive society***.
- Skills development is a key priority for the Northern Ireland Executive and the Government of Ireland, so PEACE PLUS activities have been designed to ***complement national statutory programmes***.
- Therefore, the Programme Area Skills Development investment will ***focus on initiatives with a distinct cross border and/or cross community distinctiveness and added value***.

Skills and PEACE PLUS



- PEACE PLUS includes a dedicated measure for Skills within **Theme 2: 2.3 Area Based Skills Development Programme €35m**
- 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 and 4)**.

2.3 Programme Area Skills Development €35m



- will support ***area-based approaches***, designed to address key skills gaps, which will result in ***increased productivity and employment and higher levels of cross border labour mobility***.
- will enable cross community and cross border collaboration between education and training-based organisations to deliver ***upskilling, reskilling, training and job placement opportunities***.
- will incorporate ***community skills development including support for social economy / innovation enablers***.
- will target marginalised and under-represented groups.

2.3 Area Based Skills Development Programme €35m



Supported actions will include:

- Programmes which enable area based cross community and cross border ***clusters to respond to the sub-regional skill gaps and requirements.***
- ***Programmes which maximise the delivery of cross border skills programmes*** by further and higher education providers to minimise duplication of resources.
- ***Joint educational awards*** administered by cross border partnerships which align with evidence-based education to address recognised skills gaps;
- ***Support to address the barriers to participation in skills development*** programmes including childcare, language support and affordability.

2.3 Area Based Skills Development Programme €35m



Supported actions will include:

- ***Research into the medium-term skills needs of the Programme area***, with particular reference to the economic impact of Brexit and COVID-19.
- Development of ***cross community and cross border strategies, aimed at risk reduction to employment sectors***, subject to job displacement through technological development.
- Development of an ***all-island skills research hub***.

Skills and PEACE PLUS



PEACE PLUS includes other investment areas which not exclusively for skills, 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 |
| 2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation | 2.1 SME Development and Transition |
| | 2.2 Innovation Challenge Fund |
| | 2.4 Smart Towns and Villages |
| 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People | 3.2 PEACE PLUS Youth Programme |
| 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities | 4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care |
| | 4.2 Rural Regeneration & Social Inclusion |

Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities



| INVESTMENT AREA | SKILLS SECTOR 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.• A central theme of the plans will be the regeneration and transformation of communities, which <i>will encompass skills development and upskilling initiatives.</i> |

Theme 2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation



| INVESTMENT AREA | SKILLS SECTOR ALIGNMENT |
|--|--|
| 2.1 SME Development and Transition (€20m) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will <i>build upon existing investment to support SMEs to operate at scale through cross border collaboration</i>; engage in commercially led innovation; effectively transition to the circular economy; and deliver productivity improvements through digitisation. • related interventions <i>will incorporate a skills development dimension</i>. |
| 2.2 Innovation Challenge Fund (€58m) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will support <i>high level, commercially focused research, development and innovation within key Programme area growth sectors</i>; resulting in increased productivity and higher export levels; and sustainable employment. • <i>skills development will form a component part of supported projects</i>. |
| 2.4 Smart Towns and Villages Programme (€30m) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will utilise a <i>social innovation led approach to maximise the potential of ICT to deliver improved social and economic outcomes</i> in target areas; particularly those of a rural nature. • will encompass a <i>skills development dimension which is focused upon creating a more balanced economy</i>. |

Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People



| INVESTMENT AREA | SKILLS SECTOR ALIGNMENT |
|--|---|
| 3.1 Shared Learning Together Programme (€45m) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• will provide <i>direct and sustained contact between children from all backgrounds</i> through collaboration between early childhood settings, schools and youth organisations, to promote good relations and enhance children’s skills to contribute to a cohesive society.• will encompass <i>skills development training in youth work methods for teachers and youth workers</i>, which are proven to be effective in changing attitudes and behaviours. |
| 3.2 PEACE PLUS Youth Programme (€45m) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• will build the capacity of marginalised and disadvantaged young people within the Programme area, while enhancing their confidence, <i>citizenship and employability</i>.• will <i>develop the capacity of our young people to participate within the labour market</i>. This investment will improve the life circumstances of participants.• will <i>address key skills shortages</i> and contribute to a more peaceful, productive and profitable Programme area. |

Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities



| INVESTMENT AREA | SKILLS SECTOR ALIGNMENT |
|---|---|
| 4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care (€80m) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will build upon existing and new cross community and cross border collaborative approaches to health and social care delivery models (within specified treatment areas), to deliver an increased number of episodes of care. • will support the development of innovative community based health care interventions, which complement statutory provision (including social enterprise models). • will encompass targeted cross border skills development programmes for those working within the Health and Social Care Sector. |
| 4.2 Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion (€50m) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will support social, economic and environmental projects, which contribute to the creation of healthy communities in rural areas. • Projects will include those focused upon delivering rural specific further education and upskilling programmes, including those focused on diversification within the Agricultural Sector, such as social farming. |

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>