

The PEACE PLUS Programme- Youth Sector

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

Building upon the success of previous cross border PEACE and INTERREG Programmes, it will contribute to a more peaceful, prosperous and stable society, leaving a lasting legacy across the Programme area. This will be achieved by funding activities that promote peace and reconciliation across six themes, which encompass 21 individual investment areas as outlined below. These have been developed to optimise engagement and participation across all communities and sectors.



A public consultation regarding the potential PEACE PLUS Programme design was held in 2019-20. In response to the views expressed, SEUPB has developed the Programme to ensure multiple opportunities for engagement by **Children and Young People and the Youth Sector**. These include dedicated measures for Children and Young people (Theme 3). There are other investment areas within PEACE PLUS, which although not exclusively for children and young people, will provide significant opportunities for Youth Sector involvement (**Themes 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6**).

We now look forward to receiving your views on the investment areas proposed as part of the Statutory Public Consultation process, and wish to outline all the areas across the Programme which may provide opportunity for you to get involved, and begin preparation of potential projects.

Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People

This Theme is entirely focused upon investment in our young people. This is essential to ensure the long-term peace and prosperity of the Programme area. Many have grown up in predominately single identity areas and attended single identity schools. Combined, these factors have resulted in limited, if any opportunity to develop relationships with those from different community, cultural and political backgrounds. Theme 3 will present a number of ways in which young people can engage in cross community and cross border activities, which both enhance their lives and contribute to greater community cohesion. There are three distinct investment areas as outlined.

3.1 Shared Learning Together Programme (€45m)

This investment area will be a further development of the PEACE IV cross community and cross border school partnership model. It will also facilitate non-curricular youth to youth cross community and cross border exchanges. It will incorporate opportunities for cross border youth worker collaboration and development.

3.2 PEACE PLUS Youth Programme (€45m)

This investment area will build the capacity of marginalised and disadvantaged young people within the Programme area, while enhancing their employability. Supported projects will incorporate the 'one good adult' approach.

3.3 Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing (€20m)	This investment area will increase the number of resilient young people within the Programme area, with the capacity to be in control of their own lives and make a positive contribution within their communities. It will focus on the social, emotional and environmental wellbeing of young people.
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Other Opportunities for the Youth Sector to Engage in PEACE PLUS

Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities	
1.1 Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plans (€90m)	This investment area will enable and empower council led local community partnerships, to self-determine and deliver priority projects on a cross community basis. These will include projects designed to support and improve the lives of children and young people.
1.2 Empowering Communities (€30m)	This investment area will support the delivery of people-to-people projects by local community organisations. It will enable participation by smaller organisations who can often be best placed to affect real change and embed peace at local community level, through the provision of a small grants programme. It will provide opportunities for up skilling staff in community organisations who work with children and young people.
1.3 Building Positive Relations (€30m)	This investment area will provide support for projects which transcend local boundaries and have the potential to achieve significant peace and reconciliation across the Programme area. It will present opportunities for projects progressed by Youth Sector organisations.
1.4 Re-Imaging Communities (€60m)	This investment area will offer the potential to develop new and transform existing spaces into shared environments for use by children and young people and to develop and deliver related shared activities and programming.
Theme 2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation	
2.3 Programme Area Skills Development (€35m)	This investment area will support area-based approaches to address emerging skills requirements, including those within the Youth Sector; thus enhancing the skills base of youth workers across the Programme area.
Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities	
4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care (€80m)	This investment area will support the development of innovative community-based health care interventions, which complement statutory provision (including social enterprise models). It will include a focus upon children’s mental health provision and health and well-being issues.
4.2 Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion (€50m)	This investment area will fund a range of initiatives designed to redress social isolation, which can be prevalent amongst people of all ages within rural areas. It will include provision for the creation of family support programmes, including those which provide support for children and young people, and provide opportunities that will encourage young people to remain in rural areas.
Theme 5: Supporting a Sustainable and Better Connected Future	
5.1 Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience (€15m)	This investment area will focus upon biodiversity and nature protection. It will include education initiatives and activities, which enable local communities to address climate change. This will provide opportunities for young people to get involved in climate action initiatives.
Theme 6: Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration	
6.2 Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens (€20m)	This investment area will finance smaller projects that increase social and civic cohesion on a cross border basis. It will provide opportunities for cross border initiatives led by Youth Sector organisations.

