



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Looking at the Impact of the PEACE IV, Building Positive Relations Project



THEME:

Building Positive Relations:
Regional Level Projects

FUNDING(ERDF+MATCH):

€1,198,399.68

MATCH FUNDERS:

The Executive Office Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Ashton Community Trust (ACT)

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Coiste na nIarchimi, Veterans for Peace, Irish Immigration Advisors and Belfast Conflict Resolution Centre

Start Date: 01/10/2018

End Date: 31/05/2021



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The Building Positive Relations project successfully engaged over 1,300 participants across key regional areas in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. The project was designed to incorporate a multi-level approach to building positive relations. This unique approach has included the regional delivery of 20 workshops, promoting the values of Anti-Sectarianism, Anti-Racism and Cultural Awareness.

Incorporating a range of voices and perspectives, a major part of the work of the project has been the Republican ex-prisoner community engaging with other sectors in society through dialogue to build and improve national and international relationships.

The project also facilitated positive discussion and engagement on key peace-building issues through its conference series, in over 80 meetings with external groups, and through the provision of critical support to participants in the form of welfare advice, counselling and isolation support; particularly during the unprecedented COVID-19 lockdowns.

Training for participants was also delivered through a Sustainable Leadership Programme, which developed and harnessed positive leadership skills among participants.

“Through the project workshops, meetings with external groups, conferences and outreach work, important strides have been made in understanding collective issues facing society and in setting out ways in which we can work together to address and overcome barriers.”

The unprecedented reality of COVID-19 and the successive lockdowns during the project’s second year highlighted additional difficulties among the project’s participants including isolation, loneliness and poverty; but also allowed the project team to carry out important support work by providing tangible help across the community including essential deliveries as well as online workshops, conferences and training.”

Liam Nellis, Chairperson, Ashton Community Trust