

**IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL
COOPERATION GOAL**

PART A

IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL/FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

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Title	Ireland-United Kingdom (PEACE)
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Not validated

2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(A) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

Key information on the implementation of the cooperation programme for the year concerned, including on financial instruments, with relation to the financial and indicator data.

The Peace IV Programme was formally adopted by the European Commission (EC) on the 30th November 2015, and launched on 22nd January 2016. The first Programme Monitoring Committee was held on 2nd March 2016. Following the approval of the selection criteria by the PMC, a series of calls were opened throughout 2016 and by the end of 2016 all specific objectives of the programme had opened for applications.

After a period of uncertainty following the result of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, agreement was reached on the basis on which Letters of Offer could be issued to approved projects. The Executive Minister of Finance, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, and the Irish Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe, confirmed in October 2016 that Letters of Offer for approved operations under the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes could begin to issue, and that the Programmes would be successfully completed in full. This agreement enabled the Programme to proceed with implementation.

As part of simplification measures introduced by the programme a two stage application process has been implemented, with the objective of shortening the time to assess applications. The Programme has consistently met its target to assess stage one applications within 12 weeks - with the average time being 7.5 weeks for those operations (54) that had received a decision by year end.

16 operations were approved, with the assessment time being 31 weeks or less (average 22 weeks). 3 operations were deferred pending further information.

The Steering Committee met on eight occasions during 2016.

At 31 December 2016, 16 operations had been approved and a total of 16 operations were approved with a total eligible costs of €69.67m and a public eligible cost of €68.69m.

Use of simplified cost options

The Programme has proactively promoted the implementation of simplified costs. All relevant operations will avail of a flat rate for overheads.

All Calls for Applications offered applicants the option to utilise standard scales of unit costs and/or flat-rate financing for overhead and/or staff costs. Simplified cost options are established at Stage Two of the application process in consultation with the applicant and in accordance with Commission guidance.

Designation

During 2016 the SEUPB submitted procedures to Audit Authority to facilitate the process of designation. There was consultation between the Managing Authority and Audit Authority throughout 2016 on this issue. Designation was subsequently completed in April 2017.

Compliance with e-cohesion

At the inaugural PMC meeting (March 2016) Members were advised that a single database was commissioned by the Department of Finance in 2014, to cover the requirements of the EU programmes managed by the SEUPB and other EU Programmes in Northern Ireland Departments. Following the appointment of a contractor in 2015, an initial delivery timetable was agreed which involved a staged rollout of the system during 2015, and a completion date of December 2015. The SEUPB was a member of the Project Board along with representatives from the authorities of the other programmes.

In line with the requirements under e-Cohesion, the system was designed to provide the functions for electronic project application, assessment, contracting, financial processing and verification. However contractor failed to deliver fully on any of the aforementioned stages. The Central Procurement Directorate (DoF), acting on behalf of the Project Board, subsequently terminated the contract in June 2016.

Due to the absence of a database, the Joint Secretariat used a manual system for the processing of applications during 2016.

It was then decided to adopt the INTERACT Electronic Monitoring System (eMS) to meet the requirements of e-Cohesion. The eMS has been developed using open

source software and is available free of charge to the SEUPB under license. The SEUPB has signed a license agreement and has installed the database on a local server for testing purposes. The database is configurable, with the system administrator being able to select from menus to configure the system to meet the requirements of a particular programme. Whilst there is a level of configurability available to the user, in order to meet SEUPB's own very specific business processes a higher level of configuration will be required.

The SEUPB appointed CPB on the 6th December 2016, a Vienna based company, to host and configure the system to the specific needs of the PEACE Programme. CPB were responsible for the development of the original database for INTERACT. SEUPB are currently in the process of working with CPB to ensure that the necessary changes to the system are made. It is intended that the system will go live in the first quarter of 2017.

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3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
P1	Promoting Peace and Reconciliation	<p>Four calls for applications opened in 2016, with 2 calls closing in the same period.</p> <p>Specific Objective 1- Shared Education (€30m ERDF available) Stage 1 Call opened: 24 March 2016 Stage 1 Call closed: 17 May 2016</p> <p>Specific Objective 2 Children & Young People (Aged 0-24yrs - €14.5m ERDF available) Please see Local Authority Plans below) Children & Young People (Aged 14-24yrs €32m ERDF available) Stage 1 Call opened: 3 November 2016 Stage 1 Call closing: 4 January 2017</p> <p>Specific Objective 3 - Shared Spaces and Services (€84.2m ERDF available) Capital Developments to create new Shared Spaces (€45m ERDF available) Stage 1 Call Opened: 3 November 2016 Stage 1 Call Closing: 25 January 2017</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>Victims and Survivors (€15m ERDF available)</p> <p>Stage 1 Call opened: 3 March 2016</p> <p>Stage 1 Call closed: 30 March 2016</p> <p>Local Authority Shared Spaces (€24.5m ERDF available)</p> <p>See below.</p> <p>Specific Objective 4 - Building Positive Relations at a Local Level (€43.9m ERDF available)</p> <p>Includes 2 actions; Local Authority Action Plans (€30m ERDF) and Regional Level operations (€13.9m ERDF). The Local Authority Action Plans are being developed across three thematic areas of the Programme - Children & Young People (Aged 0-24yrs €14.5m ERDF), Local Authority Shared Spaces operations (€24.5m ERDF) and Building Positive Relations at a Local Level (€30m ERDF).</p> <p>Stage 1 Call opened: 3 March 2016</p> <p>Stage 1 Call closed: 30 March 2016; 17 May 2016 and 21 June 2016 (applicants were given a range of dates to submit their plans, reflecting the state of readiness of the applicant).</p>

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
		<p>Regional Level (€13.9m ERDF available)</p> <p>Call opened: 24 March 2016</p> <p>Call closed: 29 September 2016</p> <p>The Steering Committee has met on 8 occasions and made decisions on the applications received.</p> <p>The most significant issue came in June 2016 as the UK voted in a Referendum to leave the EU. However, SEUPB proceeded with implementation of the Programme and by 31st December 2016, a total of 16 operations were approved with a total eligible costs of €69.67m and a public eligible cost of €68.69m.</p> <p>A further issue was that the eMS system was not up and running during 2016, and was therefore not operational for the application phase. The application process was completed 'offline' with all key information made available through the SEUPB Website. This did not delay the implementation of the programme.</p>
P2	Technical Assistance	<p>Technical assistance was utilised throughout the period. A number of press releases were issued promoting the programmes within the eligible region, measures have been put in place during 2016 to enable activity to take place during 2017 against each of the objectives identified, including plans for beneficiary training sessions and implementation of the evaluation plan.</p>

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3.2 Common and programme specific indicators (Article 50(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axes other than technical assistance

Priority axis	P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation
Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)

Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measure ment unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	CO38	Urban Development: Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas	Square metres	20,000.00	0	
S	CO38	Urban Development: Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas	Square metres	20,000.00	0	No operations approved in reporting period.
F	CO39	Urban Development: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	Square metres	20,000.00	0	
S	CO39	Urban Development: Public or commercial buildings built or	Square metres	20,000.00	0	No operations approved in reporting period

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measure ment unit	Target value	2016	Observations
		renovated in urban areas				
F	1.1	The number of schools involved in shared education.	Schools	350.00	0	
S	1.1	The number of schools involved in shared education.	Schools	350.00	0	No operations approved in reporting period.
F	1.2	The number of trained teachers with the capacity to facilitate shared education.	Persons	2,100.00	0	
S	1.2	The number of trained teachers with the capacity to facilitate shared education.	Persons	2,100.00	0	No operations approved in reporting period
F	1.3	The number of participants in shared education classrooms.	Pupil per school year	144,000.00	0	
S	1.3	The number of participants in shared education classrooms.	Pupil per school year	144,000.00	0	No operations approved in reporting period
F	2.1	Phase 1. The number of participants aged 0 - 24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft	Persons	21,000.00	0	

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
		skills and a respect for diversity				
S	2.1	Phase 1. The number of participants aged 0 - 24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity	Persons	21,000.00	18,802.00	15 Local Action Plans approved in the reporting period.
F	2.2	Phase 2. The number of participants aged 0 - 24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity.	Persons	15,000.00	0	
S	2.2	Phase 2. The number of participants aged 0 - 24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity.	Persons	15,000.00	0	No operations approved in reporting period.
F	2.3	Phase 1. The number of young people aged 14 - 24 who are most marginalised and disadvantaged completing approved	Persons	3,400.00	0	

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations
		programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity				
S	2.3	Phase 1. The number of young people aged 14 - 24 who are most marginalised and disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity	Persons	3,400.00	0	No operations approved in reporting period.
F	2.4	Phase 2. The number of young people aged 14 - 24 who are most marginalised and disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity.	Persons	4,000.00	0	
S	2.4	Phase 2. The number of young people aged 14 - 24 who are most marginalised and disadvantaged	Persons	4,000.00	0	No operations approved in reporting period

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measure ment unit	Target value	2016	Observations
		completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity.				
F	3.1	Capital developments to create new shared spaces.	Number	8.00	0	
S	3.1	Capital developments to create new shared spaces.	Number	8.00	0	No operations approved in reporting period.
F	3.2	Local initiatives that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings.	Number	17.00	0	
S	3.2	Local initiatives that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings.	Number	17.00	15.00	Approved 15 in the reporting period
F	3.3	Individuals in receipt of advocacy support	Number of persons	6,300.00	0	
S	3.3	Individuals in receipt of advocacy support	Number of persons	6,300.00	6,300.00	One operation approved in reporting period with Programme target committed

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measure ment unit	Target value	2016	Observations
F	3.4	Individuals in receipt of assessment/case work support/resilience support	Number of persons	11,350.00	0	
S	3.4	Individuals in receipt of assessment/case work support/resilience support	Number of persons	11,350.00	11,350.00	One operation approved in reporting period with Programme target committed
F	4.1	Local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities	Number	17.00	0	
S	4.1	Local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities	Number	17.00	15	Approved 15 in the reporting period
F	4.2	Regional level projects that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities	Number	20.00	0	
S	4.2	Regional level projects that result in	Number	20.00	0	No operations approved in reporting period

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measure ment unit	Target value	2016	Observations
		meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities				

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	CO38	Urban Development: Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas	0.00	0.00
S	CO38	Urban Development: Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas	0.00	0.00
F	CO39	Urban Development: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	0.00	0.00
S	CO39	Urban Development: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	0.00	0.00
F	1.1	The number of schools involved in shared education.	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
S	1.1	The number of schools involved in shared education.	0.00	0.00
F	1.2	The number of trained teachers with the capacity to facilitate shared education.	0.00	0.00
S	1.2	The number of trained teachers with the capacity to facilitate shared education.	0.00	0.00
F	1.3	The number of participants in shared education classrooms.	0.00	0.00
S	1.3	The number of participants in shared education classrooms.	0.00	0.00
F	2.1	Phase 1. The number of participants aged 0 - 24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity	0.00	0.00
S	2.1	Phase 1. The number of participants aged 0 - 24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
		skills and a respect for diversity		
F	2.2	Phase 2. The number of participants aged 0 - 24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity.	0.00	0.00
S	2.2	Phase 2. The number of participants aged 0 - 24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity.	0.00	0.00
F	2.3	Phase 1. The number of young people aged 14 - 24 who are most marginalised and disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity	0.00	0.00
S	2.3	Phase 1. The number of young people aged 14 - 24 who are most marginalised and	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
		disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity		
F	2.4	Phase 2. The number of young people aged 14 - 24 who are most marginalised and disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity.	0.00	0.00
S	2.4	Phase 2. The number of young people aged 14 - 24 who are most marginalised and disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity.	0.00	0.00
F	3.1	Capital developments to create new shared spaces.	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
S	3.1	Capital developments to create new shared spaces.	0.00	0.00
F	3.2	Local initiatives that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings.	0.00	0.00
S	3.2	Local initiatives that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings.	0.00	0.00
F	3.3	Individuals in receipt of advocacy support	0.00	0.00
S	3.3	Individuals in receipt of advocacy support	0.00	0.00
F	3.4	Individuals in receipt of assessment/case work support/resilience support	0.00	0.00
S	3.4	Individuals in receipt of assessment/case work support/resilience support	0.00	0.00
F	4.1	Local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
		sustained contact between persons from different communities		
S	4.1	Local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities	0.00	0.00
F	4.2	Regional level projects that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities	0.00	0.00
S	4.2	Regional level projects that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities	0.00	0.00

(Key) S=Selected operations (cumulative value), F= Fully implemented operations (cumulative value)

Priority axis	P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation
Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
Specific objective	SO1 - The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitude to contribute to cohesive society

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
1.1	The percentage of schools in the last academic year that have been involved in shared education with another school	Percentage	76%	2013	88%	N/A	N/A	Change analysis was not carried out in the reporting period

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
1.1	The percentage of schools in		76%		76%

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
	the last academic year that have been involved in shared education with another school				

Not validated

Priority axis	P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation
Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
Specific objective	SO2 - Enhancing the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society.

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
2.1	The percentage of 16 year olds who socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community	Percentage	Very often 43%; Sometimes 24%	2013	Very often 50%; Sometimes 28%	N/A	N/A	Change analysis was not carried out in the reporting period
2.2	The percentage of 16 year olds who think relations between Protestants	Percentage	Better 45%	2013	Better 50%	N/A	N/A	Change analysis was not carried out in the reporting period

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
	and Catholics are better than they were 5 years ago							
2.3	The percentage of 16 year olds who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in 5 years' time	Percentage	Better 38%	2013	Better 45%	N/A	N/A	Change analysis was not carried out in the reporting period

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
2.1	The percentage of 16 year olds who socialise or play sport with people from a		43% & 24%		43% & 24%

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
	different religious community				
2.2	The percentage of 16 year olds who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were 5 years ago		45%		45%
2.3	The percentage of 16 year olds who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in 5 years' time		38%		38%

Priority axis	P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation
Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
Specific objective	SO3 - The creation of a more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services.

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
3.1	The percentage of people who would define the neighbourhood where they live as neutral	Percentage	64% always or most of the time; 22% sometimes;	2010	68% always or most of the time; 26% sometimes;	N/A	N/A	Change analysis was not carried out in the reporting period
3.2	The percentage of people who would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of	Percentage	20%	2013	16%	N/A	N/A	Change analysis was not carried out in the reporting period

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
	only their own religion							
3.3	The percentage of people who prefer to live in a mixed-religion environment	Percentage	71%	2013	75%	N/A	N/A	Change analysis was not carried out in the reporting period

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
3.1	The percentage of people who would define the neighbourhood where they live as neutral		64% & 22%		64% & 22%
3.2	The percentage of people who would prefer to live		20%		20%

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
	in a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion				
3.3	The percentage of people who prefer to live in a mixed-religion environment		71%		71%

Not validated

Priority axis	P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation
Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
Specific objective	SO4 - The promotion of positive relations characterised by respect, and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance

Table 1: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
4.1	The percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were 5 years ago	Percentage	45% better	2013	52% better	N/A	N/A	Change analysis was not carried out in the reporting period
4.2	The percentage of people who think relations between Protestants	Percentage	40% better	2013	48% better	N/A	N/A	Change analysis was not carried out in the reporting period

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023) Total	2016 Total	2016 Qualitative	Observations
	and Catholics will be better in 5 years' time							
4.3	The percentage of people who know quite a bit about the culture of some minority ethnic communities	Percentage	30% agree or strongly agree	2013	38% agree or strongly agree	N/A	N/A	Change analysis was not carried out in the reporting period

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
4.1	The percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they		45%		45%

ID	Indicator	2015 Total	2015 Qualitative	2014 Total	2014 Qualitative
	were 5 years ago				
4.2	The percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in 5 years' time		40%		40%
4.3	The percentage of people who know quite a bit about the culture of some minority ethnic communities		30%		30%

Priority axes for technical assistance

Priority axis	P2 - Technical Assistance
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Table 2: Common and programme specific output indicators

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations														
F	5.1	Number of project beneficiaries training sessions.	Number of training sessions held	75.00	10.00	<p>10 training sessions were held as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Workshop</th> <th>Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Implementing Sustainable Development (for potential applicants)</td> <td>20-Jan-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Implementing Equality (for potential applicants)</td> <td>02-Mar-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Implementing Sustainable Development (for potential applicants)</td> <td>10-Mar-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local Action Plans</td> <td>15-Mar-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regional Projects (1)</td> <td>05-Apr-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shared Education</td> <td>28-Apr-16</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Workshop	Date	Implementing Sustainable Development (for potential applicants)	20-Jan-16	Implementing Equality (for potential applicants)	02-Mar-16	Implementing Sustainable Development (for potential applicants)	10-Mar-16	Local Action Plans	15-Mar-16	Regional Projects (1)	05-Apr-16	Shared Education	28-Apr-16
Workshop	Date																			
Implementing Sustainable Development (for potential applicants)	20-Jan-16																			
Implementing Equality (for potential applicants)	02-Mar-16																			
Implementing Sustainable Development (for potential applicants)	10-Mar-16																			
Local Action Plans	15-Mar-16																			
Regional Projects (1)	05-Apr-16																			
Shared Education	28-Apr-16																			

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value	2016	Observations								
						<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Regional Projects (2)</td> <td>04-May-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shared Spaces (Capital Development)</td> <td>26-May-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Children and Young People</td> <td>15-Nov-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Children and Young People</td> <td>17-Nov-16</td> </tr> </table>	Regional Projects (2)	04-May-16	Shared Spaces (Capital Development)	26-May-16	Children and Young People	15-Nov-16	Children and Young People	17-Nov-16
Regional Projects (2)	04-May-16													
Shared Spaces (Capital Development)	26-May-16													
Children and Young People	15-Nov-16													
Children and Young People	17-Nov-16													
S	5.1	Number of project beneficiaries training sessions.	Number of training sessions held	75.00	0.00									
F	5.2	Number of evaluations completed at Specific Objective level.	Number of evaluations	4.00	0.00									
S	5.2	Number of evaluations completed at Specific Objective level.	Number of evaluations	4.00	0.00	No evaluations were completed in the reporting period. An Evaluation Plan was approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee in November 2017 and submitted to the European Commission.								
F	5.3	Number of Managing Authority generated case studies which highlight the achievements of the Programme.	Case Studies	100.00	0.00									

(1)	ID	Indicator	Measure ment unit	Target value	2016	Observations
S	5.3	Number of Managing Authority generated case studies which highlight the achievements of the Programme.	Case Studies	100.00	0.00	None completed within the reporting period.
F	5.4	Number of Programme and operation focused press releases issued to the media	Number of press releases	100.00	5.00	5 press releases issued in reporting period
S	5.4	Number of Programme and operation focused press releases issued to the media	Number of press releases	100.00	0.00	
F	5.5	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	Number of FTEs		17.5 FTE employees	
S	5.5	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	Number of FTEs			

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
F	5.1	Number of project beneficiaries training sessions.	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
S	5.1	Number of project beneficiaries training sessions.	0.00	0.00
F	5.2	Number of evaluations completed at Specific Objective level.	0.00	0.00
S	5.2	Number of evaluations completed at Specific Objective level.	0.00	0.00
F	5.3	Number of Managing Authority generated case studies which highlight the achievements of the Programme.	0.00	0.00
S	5.3	Number of Managing Authority generated case studies which highlight the achievements of the Programme.	0.00	0.00
F	5.4	Number of Programme and operation focused press releases issued to the media	0.00	0.00
S	5.4	Number of Programme and operation focused	0.00	0.00

(1)	ID	Indicator	2015	2014
		press releases issued to the media		
F	5.5	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	0.00	0.00
S	5.5	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	0.00	0.00

(Key) S=Selected operations (cumulative value), F= Fully implemented operations (cumulative value)

Not validated

3.4. Financial data

Table 4: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

As set out in Table 1 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and table 16 of model for cooperation programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal

Priory axis	Fund	Calculation basis	Total funding	Co-financing rate	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries	Number of operations selected
P1	ERDF	Public	253,434,310.00	85.00	69,673,058.62	27.49%	68,685,280.18	0.00	0.00%	16
P2	ERDF	Public	16,176,657.00	85.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0
Total	ERDF		269,610,967.00	85.00	69,673,058.62	25.84%	68,685,280.18	0.00	0.00%	16
Grand total			269,610,967.00	85.00	69,673,058.62	25.84%	68,685,280.18	0.00	0.00%	16

Where applicable, the use of any contribution from third countries participating in the cooperation programme should be provided (for example IPA and ENI, Norway, Switzerland)

N/A

Not validated

Table 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention

As set out in Table 2 of Annex II to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 (Model for transmission of financial data) and tables 6-9 of Model for cooperation programmes

Priority axis	Fund	Intervention field	Form of finance	Territorial dimension	Territorial delivery mechanism	Thematic objective dimension	ESF secondary theme	Economic dimension	Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
P1	ERDF	055	01	05	07	09				69,673,058.62	68,685,280.18	0.00	16
P2	ERDF									0.00	0.00	0.00	0

Table 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1. Operation (2)	2. The amount of ERDF support(1) envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations	3. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	4. Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority	5. Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
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(1) ERDF support is the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.

(2) In accordance with and subject to ceilings set out Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013.

4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

An Evaluation Plan was approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee at its meeting in November 2016.

No evaluations were commissioned in 2016 as the programme was still at the early stage of implementation. An implementation evaluation and 3 impact evaluations will be commissioned.

The Evaluation Steering Group met during 2016 to consider the evaluation plan.

Not validated

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

(a) Issues which affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken

The most significant issue for the programme arose in June 2016 when the UK voted in a Referendum to leave the EU. The decision of the UK to leave the European Union resulted in period of uncertainty in the weeks that followed the referendum. During this period, programme implementation continued as normal within SEUPB, with projects being assessed and presented to Steering Committee. There was a HM Treasury (UK) announcement in August which gave assurance with regard to the UK proportion of any funding, post the UK's withdrawal, to those projects awarded funding by 23rd November. The Joint Secretariat, in cooperation with the relevant Departments, took all necessary steps to expedite the assessment of applications, within the agreed processes. Applicants were encouraged to submit applications and respond to any queries as quickly as possible in order that assessments could proceed in a timely manner. An extraordinary PMC was held in September 2016 to review the implications of the referendum on the programme. There was a further HMT announcement on 3rd October, which removed the 23rd November deadline, and gave an assurance that the UK proportion of projects funded before the UK's withdrawal would be underwritten by HMT, until they conclude, even if that is after the time that the UK exits from the EU.

The Executive Minister of Finance, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, and the Irish Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe, confirmed in October 2016 that Letters of Offer for approved operations under the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes could begin to issue, and that the Programme would be successfully completed in full. This agreement enabled the Programme to proceed with implementation.

Not Validated

SEUPB have posted a number of statements on the SEUPB website updating stakeholders on the impact on the programme of the UK's decision to withdraw from the EU and has responded to all media queries in relation to referendum decision. On 28 October SEUPB issued the following joint Ministerial statement on the implementation of the Programmes – see link below:

http://www.seupb.eu/Libraries/Media_Press_Releases/SEUPB_AnnouncementOfEUFundingAwards_LoIIssue_28-10-2016.sflb.ashx

Despite these difficulties, by 31st December 2016, a total of 16 operations were approved for funding.

Not validated

(b) OPTIONAL FOR LIGHT REPORTS, otherwise it will be included in point 9.1. An assessment of whether progress made towards targets is sufficient to ensure their fulfilment, indicating any remedial actions taken or planned, where appropriate.

N/A

Not validated

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY (ARTICLE 50(9) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

A citizen's summary of the contents of the annual and the final implementation reports shall be made public and uploaded as a separate file in the form of annex to the annual and the final implementation report

You can upload/find the Citizen's summary under General > Documents

Not validated

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (ARTICLE 46 OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

N/A

Not validated

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS (ARTICLE 101(H) AND ARTICLE 111(3) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(3)(B) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

8.1. Major projects

Table 7: Major projects

Project	CCI	Status of MP	Total investments	Total eligible costs	Planned notification/submission date	Date of tacit agreement/approval by Commission	Planned start of implementation	Planned completion date	Priority Axis/Investment priorities	Current state of realisation — financial progress (% of expenditure certified to Commission compared to total eligible cost)	Current state of realisation — physical progress Main implementation stage of the project	Main outputs	Date of signature of first works contract (1)	Observations

(1) In the case of operations implemented under PPP structures the signing of the PPP contract between the public body and the private sector body (Article 102(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013).

8.2. Joint action plans

Progress in the implementation of different stages of joint action plans

N/A

Not validated

Table 8: Joint action plans (JAP)

Title of the JAP	CCI	Stage of implementation of JAP	Total eligible costs	Total public support	OP contribution to JAP	Priority axis	Type of JAP	[Planned] submission to the Commission	[Planned] start of implementation	[Planned] completion	Main outputs and results	Total eligible expenditure certified to the Commission	Observations
Not validated													

Significant problems encountered and measures taken to overcome them

N/A

Not validated

9. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 50(4) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013 AND ARTICLE 14(4) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

9.1 Information in Part A and achieving the objectives of the programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

Priority axis	P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation
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The programme was launched in January 2017 with the first Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) being held on 2 March 2016. Following the approval of the selection criteria by the PMC a series of calls were made during 2016. By the end of 2016 all themes of the programme were open applications with 16 operations approved under the PEACE IV Programme. Two further meetings of the PMC took place by the end of the reporting period, one of which was an extraordinary joint meeting with the INTERREG VA Programme PMC to discuss the implications off and actions required following the UK EU Referendum decision. One significant aspect of programme implementation in 2016 was the formation of the Local PEACE Partnerships and development of the associated local authority PEACE Action Plans. 15 of the 17 Action Plans were approved by in 2016 representing a significant investment by the programme in local initiatives that will promote positive relations and community cohesion characterised by respect, where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance. All of the PEACE Partnerships are inclusive in nature. A further operation was approved in relation to the Victims and Survivors action under the Shared Spaces and Services Specific Objective of the programme, during the course of the operations lifetime, over 6,000 individuals will be in receipt of advocacy support and over 11,000 will be in receipt of assessment, case work and resilience support.

By the end of 2016, all areas of the programme had opened for applications which was an important milestone for the programme, this resulted in applications being submitted under the following four specific objectives:

Specific Objective 1: Shared Education

Specific Objective 2: Children and young People

Specific Objective 3: Shared Spaces and Services

Specific Objective 4: Building Positive Relations

Another important aspect of implementation to report is the progress made in relation to the reduction of the administrative burden on beneficiaries. The PMC approved a two stage application process, with the objective of shortening the time to assess applications. The Programme has consistently met its target to assess stage one applications within 12 weeks - with the average time being 7.5 weeks for those projects (54) that have received a decision to date. The programme has also proactively promoted the implementation of simplified costs throughout 2016. All relevant operations will avail of a flat rate for overheads and all Calls for Applications offered applicants the option to utilise standard scales of unit costs and/or flat-rate financing for overhead and/or staff costs. Simplified cost options are established at Stage Two of the application process in consultation with the applicant and in accordance with Commission guidance.

The programme has made significant progress in relation to implementation.

Priority axis

P2 - Technical Assistance

The programme was launched in January 2016 with significant promotional activity taken throughout the reporting period to raise the profile of the Programme. A number of press releases (5 in total) were issued which generated media coverage for the programme. An Evaluation Plan was approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) in November 2017 and an Evaluation Steering Group was constituted and met to review the Evaluation Plan and will monitor the implementation of the plan throughout the programme period. Training was provided to potential beneficiaries in relation to the horizontal principles and a training plan was under development by the Managing Authority and will be rolled out to beneficiaries throughout 2017.

9.2. Specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, in particular accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of specific actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of specific actions taken to promote equality between men and women and to promote non-discrimination, including accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the arrangements implemented to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in the cooperation programme and operations.

The programme has been subject to equality screening in accordance with relevant national legislation and the SEUPB's equality policy. All relevant documentation is available on the SEUPB website.

The programme has taken into account the need to promote equality of opportunity and in order to support applicants in this regard, a workshop was held in Dundalk on 2nd March 2016 with potential applicants that addressed the following key areas:

- Between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Between men and women generally;
- Between persons with a disability and persons without;
- Between persons with dependants and persons without; and
- Without prejudice to the above, have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

Applicants are required to include a statement of the likely equality impact on their application and identify any differential impacts on the above mentioned categories. This horizontal principle is assessed and scored at stage two of the application process. Applicants must score a minimum of 3 under this criterion in order to be recommended for funding.

Not validated

9.3.Sustainable development (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 2, (e) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

An assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the principles set out in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 on sustainable development, including, where relevant, depending on the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, an overview of the actions taken to promote sustainable development in accordance with that Article

As outlined within the Cooperation Programme, the programme has been subject to a strategic environment assessment. The report and accompanying documentation is available on the SEUPB website. In order to support applicants in designing their operation in manner consistent with the principles of sustainable development two workshops were held with potential applicants on the 20/01/16 and 10/03/16 to identify and advise on key issues concerning the horizontal principle.

As part of the assessment of applications, consideration is being given to how the operation will adhere to the principles and objectives of sustainable development. This horizontal principle is assessed and scored at stage two. A minimum standard has to be reached for the operation to be recommended for funding.

Not validated

9.4. Reporting on support used for climate change objectives (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013)

N/A

Not validated

9.5 Role of partners in the implementation of the cooperation programme (Article 50(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 14(4), subparagraph 1, (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)

Assessment of the implementation of actions to take into account the role of partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, including involvement of the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation programme

The Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC), Evaluation Steering Group (ESG) and Steering Committees are made up of a range of partners across the programme's eligible area. The committees are formed on a cross border basis with the following organisations are presented:

- Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
- Council for Nature Conservation & the Countryside (CNCC)
- Department of Finance (DoF)
- Department of Public Expenditure & Reform (DPER)
- Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly
- Environmental Pillar
- IBEC
- ICTU Ireland
- ICTU Northern Ireland
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC)
- Irish Rural Link
- Managing Authority, SEUPB
- NICVA
- NILGA
- Northern Western Regional Assembly (NWRA)

Not validated

- Pobal
- The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI)
- The Wheel
- Ulster Farmers Union

The PMC has a gender balance of 32% Female and 68% male and has an equal representation between NI and Ireland. Three Programme Monitoring Committee meetings were held in 2016 – 2nd March and 22nd November with an exceptional joint PEACE IV and INTERREG VA meeting held in June 2016 following the result of the UK Referendum to leave the EU.

The Evaluation Steering Group (ESG) met in November 2016 to review and agree the PEACE IV Evaluation Plan in advance of its submission to the PMC and Commission.

A total of 8 Steering Committee meetings were held in 2016 to discuss and approve Programme applications with all programme partners playing a full role in reviewing the applications submitted.

The programme also works closely with accountable departments who are providing match funding to the programme/operations. Representatives of Department of Finance (NI) and Department for Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER Ireland) attend PMC, Steering Committee and ESG meetings held during the year along with advisors from each of the relevant departments.

Not validated

10. OBLIGATORY INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENT ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 1 (A) AND (B), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013

10.1 Progress in implementation of the evaluation plan and the follow-up given to the findings of evaluations

The Evaluation Plan, which includes as its basis the requirement for one programme implementation evaluation and three thematic impact evaluations, was approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee at its meeting in November 2016.

The plan was subsequently submitted to the Commission and is available to view on the SEUPB Website (Programme) website. An Evaluation Steering Group (ESG), consisting of partners from the Accountable Departments in Northern Ireland and Ireland, Trade Unions, Environmental Sector and NISRA was set up in 2016 to contribute to the drafting of the Evaluation Plan and will monitor the implementation of the plan throughout the programme period. No evaluations have been commissioned, the implementation evaluation will be commissioned in early 2017 with all impact evaluations commissioned by the end of 2017.

Not validated

10.2 The results of the information and publicity measures of the Funds carried out under the communication strategy

Co-operation Programme – Output indicators

The Communication Strategy was approved by the PMC by written procedure on the 17th June 2016.

Progress against indicators:

1. 'Number of Managing Authority generated case studies which highlight the achievements of the Programme' (ID 5.3). No case studies were generated in 2016 due to the fact that letters of offer for PEACE IV were only issued towards the end of the year. It is anticipated that this will change during 2017.
2. 'Number of Programme and operation focused press releases issued to the media' (ID 5.4). The Managing Authority issued 5 out of a target value of 100 to be reached by 2023. Details of the 2016 press releases are contained in the below table. To note it is anticipated that more press releases are issued in 2017 as operations move through the assessment process.

Press release number	Date of issue	Description / Title
1	22/01/2016	OVER €550M / £420M WORTH OF EU FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE
2	09/05/2016	EUROPE DAY MARKS €3.39 BILLION OF EU FUNDING ACROSS THE REGION
3	28/10/2016	MINISTERS DONOHOE AND Ó MUILLEOIR CONFIRM MULTI-MILLION DELIVERY OF EU FUNDING
4	03/11/2016	FUNDING WORTH OVER €90 MILLION IS NOW AVAILABLE UNDER THE EU'S PEACE IV PROGRAMME

5	24/11/2016	EU PROVIDES £13.4 MILLION FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS
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Programme Communication Plan 2014-2020 – update

In terms of the communication evaluation measures as detailed in section 6.3.2 of the Communication Plan 2014-2020 of the PEACE IV Programme, the following targets have been achieved during 2016. Baseline figures for 2016 have been provided, when the Programme officially launched. These figures will be used for comparative purposes going forward in relation to targets associated with social media and media evaluations activities.

Communication Tool	Targets	Evaluation Measure Result
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 unique page impressions/views and users per month. • Average length of stay per visit (3-4 minutes). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page views for 2016 average at 15,497.6 per month and users at 1,406 per month. • Average 5:33 mins
Case Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 over lifetime of Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A (see above).
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 pieces of media coverage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All targets achieved for the official launch of the Programme on 22/01/2016 in terms of coverage,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% overall satisfaction rating. • 30%-40% attendance from invitee list. 	<p>satisfaction rating and attendance rates – coverage secured in local/national print, broadcast and online news outlets in N and Ireland Attendance at approximately 200.</p>
Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twitter (+15% new followers per annum; engagement rate increase by 0.2% per annum) • Facebook (+10% new likes per annum. Comments and shares +2% increase per annum). • You Tube (+10% on views; +5% increase on subscribers per annum). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twitter (Total number of followers at the end of 2016 was 1,511; total annual engagement rate for 2016 is 13%, averaging 1.03 per month). • Facebook (Total number of new likes for 2016 is 134; engagement rate for 2016 is 117.1). • You Tube (Total number of views for 2016 is 1,208, total number of subscribers is 3).
Media Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average 70% positive tone of articles generated per annum; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average (positive) tone of articles generated for PEACE IV coverage in 2016 was 84.8% • Total annual AVE for PEACE IV in 2016 was £764,163.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• +5% on annual AVE;• +5% on number of media articles generated per annum;• 100 press releases generated over lifetime of the Programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total number of articles generated by PEACE IV in 2016 was 518.• Total number of press releases issued in 2016 was 5.
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Not validated

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE ADDED DEPENDING ON THE CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME (ARTICLE 14(4), SUBPARAGRAPH 2 (A), (B), (C) AND (F), OF REGULATION (EU) No 1299/2013)

11.1 Progress in implementation of the integrated approach to territorial development, including sustainable urban development, and community-led local development under the cooperation programme

N/A

Not validated

11.2 Progress in implementation of actions to reinforce the capacity of authorities and beneficiaries to administer and to use the ERDF

The programme has also proactively promoted the implementation of simplified costs throughout 2016. All relevant operations will avail of a flat rate for overheads and all Calls for Applications offered applicants the option to utilise standard scales of unit costs and/or flat-rate financing for overhead and/or staff costs. Simplified cost options are established at Stage Two of the application process in consultation with the applicant and in accordance with Commission guidance. Training was also held during 2016 for potential applicants in relation to horizontal principles and representatives from the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariats participated in training sessions on the administration of ERDF.

Not validated

11.3 Contribution to macro-regional and sea basin strategies (where appropriate)

Contribution to Sea-Basin Strategies - Atlantic Strategy and Action Plan

The UK and Ireland make up two of the five Atlantic Member States. As a result both Member States have been involved in the development of the Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area.

The Atlantic Action Plan identified four priorities:

- Promoting entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment;
- Improve accessibility and connectivity;
- Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development.

In response to the challenges and history of the programme area, the PEACE Programme is a distinctive programme to contribute to social and economic stability, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities.

The Programme will not make a direct contribution to the achievement of the Atlantic Action Plan, but it will make an overall contribution to sustaining regional stability, and in so doing will contribute to a context which will facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan.

SEUPB maintains close contact with representatives from the National Units of the Atlantic Action Plan in the UK and Ireland.

Not Validated

11.4 Progress in the implementation of actions in the field of social innovation

N/A

Not validated

13. SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Information and assessment of the programme contribution to achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The development and implementation of the PEACE IV Programme has been informed by the European Union's key policy instruments, namely the Europe 2020 Strategy (EU2020), the Common Strategic Framework and the European Commission's position papers on the UK and Ireland. EU2020 outlines a ten year growth strategy centred on five measurable targets to be achieved by 2020. The achievement of these five targets will be based on plans for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The PEACE IV Programme recognises that peace and community cohesion are essential prerequisites for building a competitive economy. In particular the programme will impact on the most socially and economically excluded people through interventions in good relations, training and education. Stability leads to economic growth, with community cohesion being a fundamental building block of ensuring the long term stability of the region.

The following strategic areas of investment have been prioritised for 2014-2020. These areas are based on the results of the public consultation exercise, the lessons learnt during PEACE III and additional research of the needs of the programme area. Operations approved under each of these specific objectives will promote cohesion between communities ultimately reinforcing the path towards social and economic stability.

Shared Education

The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitudes to contribute to a cohesive society.

Children & Young People

Enhancing the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society. In particular, young people who are most disadvantaged and hardest to reach will benefit from the investment.

Shared Spaces & Services

The creation of a more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services.

Building Positive Relations

The promotion of positive relations at a local and a regional level, characterised by respect, and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

Common to all areas of investment, operations have been selected based on their contribution and their alignment with the Programme's specific objectives, results and outputs. The selection criteria approved by the Programme Monitoring Committee aligns operations to the relevant specific objective and result orientation. This alignment is reflected within the letter of offer to approved projects. This in turn ensures projects as they are implemented will contribute to the European Union's strategy and policy objectives.

Not validated

14. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN — PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (ARTICLE 50(2) OF REGULATION (EU) No 1303/2013)

Where the assessment of progress made with regard to the milestones and targets set out in the performance framework demonstrates that certain milestones and targets have not been achieved, Member States should outline the underlying reasons for failure to achieve these milestones in the report of 2019 (for milestones) and in the final implementation report (for targets).

N/A

Not validated

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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Not validated