Organisations from the eligible region, funded through the PEACE Programme, have also engaged with organisations at an international level on peace building and reconciliation projects. These include connections with Colombia, Israel, Palestine and in Mali, Egypt and South Africa. 

CASE STUDIES

Early Years – The organisation for young children

The International Early Childhood Network on Peace Building and Reconciliation project, funded by the PEACE III Programme, developed partnerships between 20 international countries recognising the importance of early childhood in building integrated and peaceful societies.

One significant result of the project was the development of a new International Programmatic Toolkit for work with young children, parents and teachers. This Toolkit is currently being implemented and evaluated in the Balkans and plans are in place to implement and evaluate the programme in Colombia, Palestine and Israel.

As a result of the connections made during the project, the network has continued and expanded beyond the PEACE III Programme. The worldwide network has expanded and we now have partners in Egypt, Mali, SE Asia, and the Middle East, working on projects involving peace building with young children. As Lead Partner Early Years has also secured funding from UNICEF to deliver and provide the secretariat function for this work. Next year our annual meeting is coming to Belfast - it hasn’t been there in a while and it is in part due to the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday / Belfast Agreement (1998).”

Siobhan Fitzpatrick CBE, CEO, Early Years – The organisation for young children

The Playhouse, Derry / Londonderry

The International Cultural Arts Network (ICAN) project, funded by the PEACE III Programme, used arts activity as a mechanism to build peace, explore community relations issues and promote social inclusion. It successfully delivered 16 international artists residencies where artists shared their unique skills and experiences, such as working with young people involved in gang culture, ex-prisoners, and victims & survivors of conflict with local community artists, youth and community workers & leaders and educators.

Theatre practitioners, artists, and companies from a wide range of countries such as France, Austria, Ireland, Spain and The Netherlands as well as non-EU countries like Bosnia, South Africa and Switzerland participated in conferences or undertook artist residencies.

As a direct result of the PEACE III ICAN project, the Playhouse has been involved in 5 EU Erasmus projects and their connections with other areas of Europe are stronger than ever:

“Last year, I developed a European project which came from a conversation I had with an ICAN conference speaker, John Johnston, who is now Head of the International Master Artist Educator course in University of The Arts, Arnhem. This is a long-term project, where I co-deliver a module for the university at The Playhouse. Seven Dutch students came to Derry in March 2017 to undertake an arts and social practice module with a focus on peace-building. Next year ten students will attend for one month.”

Elaine Forde, Project Director, The Playhouse.

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