

SHARED SPACE and SERVICES

1. The Peace Programme

The EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation is a unique Structural Funds programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. It represents the European Union's commitment to supporting the peace process across the region and was initially launched in 1995.

The PEACE IV Programme 2014-2020 represents a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investment of €229m and will provide support to projects that contribute towards the promotion of greater levels of peace and reconciliation. The Programme will also place a strong emphasis on promoting cross-community relationships and understanding in order to create a more cohesive society.

The core objectives of PEACE IV will be to support actions that will develop and deepen reconciliation between divided communities; increase tolerance and respect, promote increased community cohesion and contact, enhance cross-border cooperation and address the legacy of the past.

2. Summary of Call

SEUPB are making a second call under Specific Objective 3: Shared Spaces and Services with the following specific objective:

The development of existing or the creation of new shared civic spaces that will be used by all sections of the community; this will involve changes in both attitudes and behaviour with a corresponding reduction in segregation. Projects will be of sufficient scale to have a transformative effect on local areas, as well as having a regional significance. Projects will incorporate high quality design and sustainable development principles, including measures to minimise carbon emissions.

It is anticipated that €38.5 million will be available to fund projects under this call.

The timetable for the submission of applications is as follows:

- Opening Date: 16 March 2018
- Closing Date: 18 June 2018 (3pm)
- Steering Committee Date: (No later than) 28 November 2018
- Open Information Session Date: 16 March 2018 (documentation is available under the link <https://www.seupb.eu/piv-shared-spaces>)

The result indicator:

- An increase in the percentage of people who would define the neighbourhood where they live as neutral. The 2010 baseline value is 64% always or most of the time; 22% sometimes. The target value for 2023 is 68% always or most of the time; 26% sometimes.
- An increase in the percentage of people who prefer to live in a mixed religion environment. The 2013 baseline value is 71%, the target value for 2023 is 75%.
- A reduction in the percentage of people who would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion. The 2013 baseline value is 20%, the target value for 2023 is 16%.

The output indicator:

- Six capital developments to create new shared spaces.

3. Essential information

The call for applications should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Cooperation Programme and associated Citizens' Summary
- The Programme Rules
- Guide for Applicants
- European Commission Guidance for Simplified Cost Options (including unit costs)

Please consult these documents before completing the application form as they contain essential information to assist you in making the best application possible.

Applicants may also find it useful to consult the '*Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross Border Cooperation*'. This toolkit has been developed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies, as part of an INTERREG IVA funded project and is intended to be a practical guide to assist with planning cross-border projects. A copy of the toolkit can be downloaded from our website: www.seupb.eu

4. Project Eligibility Criteria

A single stage process will be used for this call. To ensure that Projects will be able to complete development and construction within the Programme timeframe, an additional admissibility check will be applied to all applications.

This check will require applicants to have in place the list of required documents set out in Annex 1 in place by the call closing date. Applications that do not have these documents in place will be deemed ineligible and will not be assessed. Also, applications that fail this admissibility test will not have recourse to the Review Procedure for Unsuccessful Applications.

5. Project Selection Criteria

The applicant must demonstrate that they can deliver a capital development that develops an existing space or creates a new shared space by the end of the Programme period in December 2023.

The following selection criteria will be used:

(a) Each operation will have to demonstrate how they contribute to the results and outputs of the themes.

- Particular focus will be given to the direct contribution to peace and reconciliation.
- Projects will have to demonstrate that they are creating opportunities for sustained meaningful and purposeful contact between people and groups of different backgrounds and in so doing contribute to the result and outputs of the call.

(b) Quality of the project design

- Projects will have to demonstrate a direct link between their proposed activities and the proposed impact of the project.
- Particular attention will be given to measures to ensure the inclusion of the marginalised or other target groups.
- Projects will incorporate high quality design and sustainable development principles, including measures to minimise carbon emissions.

(c) Quality of the project team, partnership and implementation arrangements;

- Projects will have to demonstrate that the project team have the right skills and experience to lead the project, and that the project structures will be able to deliver on the peace and reconciliation outputs.

(d) Value for money;

- Projects will have to demonstrate that the usage of the proposed facility is of appropriate volume, frequency and intensity on a cross-community basis to merit the size of the capital investment requested.
- Projects will have to demonstrate that there will be little or no displacement effect created by the Project.

(e) Quality of cross community and cross-border co-operation with demonstrable added value;

- Cross border co-operation will be encouraged through the development of appropriate partnerships and implementation arrangements where these add value to the delivery of the Programme.
- In all cases including those projects implemented on a single jurisdiction basis, projects will have to demonstrate how they will effectively ensure participation on a cross community basis in their activities.

(f) Contribution towards sustainable development;

- Projects should consider how their activity can be designed to positively contribute towards this horizontal principle.

(g) Contribution towards equality.

- Projects should consider how their activity can be designed to positively contribute towards this horizontal principle.

6. Eligible Region

The eligible area for the PEACE IV Programme is:

- Northern Ireland;
- The Border Region of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo).

7. What is the theme “Shared Spaces and Services” going to achieve?

There are many different kinds of interface areas in Northern Ireland. The most well-known of these are the 99 Peace Walls, 58 of which are owned by the Department of Justice. The Peace Walls are for the most part walls, fences, gates or barriers between communities. The most recent survey on the attitudes of residents to the removal of the Peace Walls reported that 58% of interface residents were in favour of the barriers being removed. This increased to 76% when the views of the wider population were taken into account.

This widespread support for action is mirrored in the Northern Ireland Executive’s commitment to removing all interface barriers by 2023, as detailed in the *Together: Building a United Community* (TBUC Strategy), which recognises the importance of dealing with people’s actual and perceived safety resulting from barrier removal.

In addition to the physical barriers, there exist virtual barriers (e.g. retail businesses, shopping malls or streets patronised by one community to the almost full exclusion of another community) which not only act as a reinforcement of division, but also negatively impact small businesses.

The impact of the PEACE Bridge in Derry / Londonderry, financed by the PEACE III Programme, is a good example of what can be achieved by creating shared space that

opens up the potential for increased engagement between communities and increased normalisation of economic activity.

The creation of shared space however requires a great deal of work with the communities on either side of the interface area and an investment in the normalisation of the resultant shared space. The PEACE IV Programme provides the opportunity to complement the stated objectives of the TBUC Strategy by working with local authorities and local communities throughout the programme region towards the creation of shared spaces. This may include the creation of additional iconic shared spaces or working towards the normalisation of existing public places to make them safe for all communities.

The theme aims to facilitate the removal of visible and invisible barriers between divided communities, real and perceived issues related to physical safety and building trust must be addressed. It is envisaged that the integration of communities can be facilitated and improved through investment in an increased number of shared spaces and services.

8. Anticipated Actions

It is anticipated that the Programme will fund the following types of action:

- New buildings and spaces with a transformative effect on local areas.
- Developing the shared aspect of existing neighbourhoods, public spaces and buildings.

The Programme will support the development of capital build projects in urban and rural areas that demonstrate tangible progress in developing shared space and building a shared society. Projects will be designed to have a transformative effect locally as well as having a regional significance. Projects will incorporate high quality design and sustainable development principles, including measures to minimise carbon emissions.

9. Budget and co-financing rate

The actual award of grant aid to any particular applicant will be determined following a robust analysis of costs.

The level of grant aid may need to be adjusted to take due account of state aid and/or anticipated future revenue streams. Please consult the Programme rules for further details.

Grants and payments may take any of the following forms:

- (a) Reimbursement of eligible costs actually incurred and paid;
- (b) Standard scales of unit costs;
- (c) Flat-rate financing, available for overhead costs or salary costs.

The above options may be combined only where each option covers different categories of costs or where they are used for different projects forming a part of an operation or for successive phases of an operation.

A successful project, where there are cross-border partners, will be issued with a Letter of Offer in Euro. A successful project that has Northern Ireland partner(s) only, may request a Letter of Offer in Sterling.

10. Simplified Cost Options (SCO)

In order to simplify the administration of grant aid, the SEUPB would propose to use simplified costs options for the administration of this theme. It is envisaged that the relevant simplified cost options will include flat rates and unit costs, as outlined in the Programme Rules.

11. Flat Rate

Office and administration costs (overheads) will be funded at a flat rate of 15% of direct salary costs. No justification is required.

12. Unit Costs

The use of unit costs, where applicable, is desirable in this area of the programme and, accordingly, applicants are encouraged to present unit costs. Where applicants take this opportunity, unit costs are to be presented and evidenced in accordance with the European Commission's guidance for the preparation on unit costs.

Unit costs must be:

- Fair – based on reality, not excessive or extreme
- Equitable – it does not favour some beneficiaries or projects over others
- Verifiable – determination of flat rates, standard scales of unit costs or lump sums should be based on documentary evidence which can be verified.

Applicants must document as a minimum:

- The description of the calculation method, including key steps of the calculation
- The sources of data used for the analysis and the calculations, including an assessment of the relevance of the data to the project(s), and an assessment of the quality of the data.
- The calculation itself to determine the value of the Simplified Cost Option (unit cost).

The Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) specifies that the following may be used in evidence to support Simplified Cost Options:

- ‘Statistical’ data or other objective information
- The verified historical data of individual beneficiaries
- The application of the usual cost accounting practices of individual beneficiaries.

When providing calculations of unit costs, applicants must provide accounting data over at least three years so as to identify any potential exceptional circumstance which would have affected costs in a specific year as well as the tendencies in the cost amounts.

Where unit costs are presented, applicants will be able to suggest modifications to the overall financial allocations.

13. Application process

A one stage process will be in place for this call as detailed in the Guide for Applicants. Full details of the assessment process, including admissibility criteria is also available in the Guide for Applicants.

Completed applications should be submitted to applications@seupb.eu or SEUPB, EU House, 11 Kevlin Rd, Omagh, Co Tyrone BT78 1LB

14. Contact Us

For general enquiries about this call please contact the SEUPB on: Tel: + 44 28 8225 5750

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Annex 1

Additional Admissibility Test - Mandatory Attachments Required

1. Draft Partnership Agreement
2. Last two years audited accounts
3. Project Management and Governance Structure Chart
4. VAT Status (Registration Certificate or Statement to confirm Lead Partner VAT status)
5. Lead Partner Constitution
6. Budget Rationale (Templates for both staff cost and other cost assumptions available on eMS)
7. Risk Register (Template on eMS)
8. Financial Management Arrangements (Template on eMS)
9. Proposed Construction Works and Design Information - This should include location map, site plans, floor plans, architects' drawings and elevations.
10. Confirmation of Title or Transfer Arrangements (including commitment of owner and timescale) to be signed by Solicitor.
11. Planning Consent or Statement from Planning Authority that Planning Application has been submitted and expected decision timeframe or Statement from Planning Authority that applicant has engaged on the proposed development with an expected application and decision timeframe.
12. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) together with information on site investigation work necessary, including site investigation reports completed or a timeframe of relevant site investigations to be carried out (if required.)
13. Professional Estimates - The budget should be supported with appropriate Professional Estimates.
14. Match funding - Evidence to be provided that the full funding package is in place and the source(s) of the matching funding. It should be noted that 100% of project costs can be funded through PEACE IV (ERDF & public match funding). (Template on eMS)
15. Cash flow Forecasts - showing that ongoing operational costs have been considered and how these costs will be met.
16. Job Descriptions for funded posts.