

YOUR EU!

An update on the European Union's PEACE and INTERREG Programmes
Spring 2019



PEACE IV Project Empowering Women to Get Involved in Public Life



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The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. The Body was established on 2 December 1999, under the Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ireland (8 March 1999), which created the implementing bodies.

The Special EU Programmes Body's principal function is to provide the Managing Authority and Joint Secretariat functions for the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Territorial Co-operation Programmes (2014-2020). It also has a signposting and supporting role for projects wanting to engage with the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Inter-regional Programmes.

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Welcome to the Spring edition of Your EU!



Welcome to the very first edition of Your EU for 2019. Reflecting back on an extremely busy year we have come a long way in terms of progress for both programmes.

To date, 95 projects have been approved under the PEACE IV Programme and 32 under the INTERREG VA Programme.

Throughout 2018 we launched 47 projects (12 under the INTERREG VA Programme and 35 under the PEACE IV Programme). It is truly inspiring to see the projects come to life and to understand the impact they are having on beneficiaries.

In late 2018 we were invited to take part in the National Ploughing Championships in Tullamore, County Offaly. The annual festival, which attracts almost 300,000 visitors daily, was the perfect opportunity to communicate the benefits of EU funding to the general public. The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins and a number of ministers including Michael Ring, Minister for Rural and Community Development and Sean Kyne, Minister for Community Development, Natural Resources and Digital Development visited our stand during the event.

Positively looking ahead, seven new Shared Space projects, to the value

of approximately €43.8m, are set to launch over the coming months, helping to address the high level of social segregation across the region.

The Shared Spaces and Capital Development objective of the PEACE IV Programme is aimed at facilitating the development of new shared spaces, all of which have been designed to be used by all sections of the community and will provide an opportunity for hundreds of thousands of people to mix with someone from a different culture or background.

Some examples include the €8m Waterside Shared Village project which will create a multi-faceted shared space within the Waterside area of Derry-Londonderry and the €9.5m Monaghan Peace Campus, which will create a new four-storey community building situated beside the Garda Station on Plantation Road in Monaghan.

The European Parliament is due to consider, in March 2019, a proposed regulation which will afford the continuation of the current PEACE and INTERREG Programmes in preparing for the withdrawal of the UK from the EU.

This demonstrates the commitment by all those involved in this

Programme who understand the impact they have in this region.

There have also been some very positive developments in relation to the proposed PEACE Plus Programme, post 2020, following public commitments made by the European Commission, alongside the Irish and UK Governments for continued funding of PEACE and INTERREG activities.

As always, this edition is packed full of many exciting project updates and news stories. This includes some updates in the INTERREG VB / VC Programme, including the Gencomm project and its lead partner Belfast Met. More details can be found on pages 18 & 19.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy this edition of Your EU and I would welcome your feedback or comments on its content.

Gina McIntyre
Chief Executive, SEUPB

Cross-Border Health Project Makes Significant Progress in Raising Awareness Surrounding ADHD

Since officially launching in October 2017 the INTERREG VA funded Changing Lives Initiative has been making significant progress in raising awareness of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in the County Louth, West Belfast and Western Scotland areas.

The €2.7m project is developing a new early intervention service for families with a child (aged between three and seven) with a pattern of behaviour consistent with Hyperkinetic Disorder / ADHD.

It is focused on operating in disadvantaged areas where, given the nature of ADHD, prevalence is

highest and aims to develop a common framework across jurisdictions, standardising access, client screening, referral, training, research, treatment, and post-treatment processes.

To date, over 500 families and almost 650 professionals have been engaged in the project.

One of the interventions has included an advanced 20-week 'Incredible Years ADHD Parent Programme', which was specifically designed to educate parents and children on dealing with problem solving, social and emotional coaching, positive disciplining and managing misbehaviour.

In early Autumn the project laid on a very special celebratory event for the parents who had taken part in the County Louth programme, where special certificates were presented and parents were given the opportunity to reflect on their experience.

Summarising the continued work of the project Christina Riordan, Project Manager, reflected: "There are a lot of misconceptions out there about ADHD. It's a neurological disorder and it is our job to make sure parents, educators and the wider community understand that. That's why a large part of our work is around delivering information and awareness sessions to both parents and professionals."



Parents from the County Louth programme of the Changing Lives Initiative collect their certificates for completing the course.

1,000 Social Housing Residents Benefiting from New PEACE IV Project

Over 1,000 social housing residents, from 40 neighbourhoods are taking part in a new €1.1m PEACE IV Programme funded project.

The Housing Associations Integration Project (HAIP) is a unique cross-border initiative aimed at promoting good relations across housing associations in Northern Ireland and the Border Regions of Ireland.

The project will bring together social housing residents from a range of religious and cultural backgrounds to share experiences, learn about differences and embrace diversity in the communities in which they live. Such activity will help build, improve and sustain positive relationships with local people and their neighbours from different cultures and countries.

Discussing the project, Alan Shannon, Chairperson of the Project Steering Committee for HAIP reflected: "It is the first initiative of its kind to cover Northern Ireland and the border counties and aims to promote good relations within and across housing associations. The project will be delivered by a new partnership involving four of Northern Ireland's largest housing associations (Radius, Clanmil, Choice and Apex), alongside TIDES Training, Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA), and the Irish Council for Social Housing."

Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "The EU's PEACE IV Programme has been designed to encourage positive relationships between people from all communities. Unfortunately this region has been left with deeply engrained issues associated with social segregation, as a result of the troubles/conflict. By improving cross-community relations in up to 40 different social housing areas across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland this innovative project will help to reinforce peace and stability."

"The project will also deliver a bespoke good relations training programme for up to 200 people, on both sides of the border, with the hope that many of these individuals will go on to become 'community champions', delivering positive change in their local areas."

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department for Rural and Community Development in Ireland.



Pictured at the launch of the HAIP project are (l-r): Alan Shannon, Chairperson Project Steering Committee; Richard Mealey, HAIP Project Co-ordinator and Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB.

Shared Education Success in PEACE IV Project's First Year

The first year of the PEACE IV Sharing from the Start project has provided significant evidence of the positive impact of Shared Education on children, parents, carers and pre-school educational practitioners.

The €4.2m project aims to utilise Shared Education to bring about positive attitudinal and behavioural change among children, parents, teachers and the wider community.

This is being achieved through the implementation of purposeful, direct and sustained curriculum-based contact between children of predominantly different religious backgrounds and different ethnic or socio-economic backgrounds.

To date over 2,400 children and 82 pre-schools have been involved in the project.

In a recent survey, conducted by lead partner Early Years, many examples were provided as to the impact on children's personal, social and emotional development in Northern Ireland and well-being, identity and belonging in the Border Counties of Ireland.

84% of education practitioners involved in the project noted that it had improved community involvement within the early years settings and 70% advised that it has had a positive impact on bringing



The €4.2m PEACE IV Sharing from the Start project aims to bring about positive attitudinal and behavioural change among children, parents, teachers and the wider community.



Professional development of pre-school practitioners has been at the heart of the project, including off-the-job training, mentoring and support.

about greater cross-community relationships.

Professional development of the pre-school practitioners and their increased knowledge, skills, confidence and attitudes has been a major contributing factor in the success of the project's first year. The project has provided such individuals with three days off-the-job training, along with on-going mentoring, facilitation and support by senior early years specialists throughout the year.

Speaking ahead of the launch event last year, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "Shared education will help us transition into a confident, outward-facing society which has the

ability to celebrate its differences. By giving pre-school children an opportunity to have meaningful, sustained contact with young people from another background they will become positive agents for change influencing their own families, peers and friends outside of the pre-school environment.

"It has also been proven that children participating in shared education initiatives benefit from an increase in self-confidence, self-awareness and self-reflection," she continued.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Education and Skills in Ireland and the Department of Education in Northern Ireland.



To date, 2,400 children and 82 pre-schools have been involved in the PEACE IV project.

New INTERREG VA Project to Improve Clinical Decision Making

A new €8.6m INTERREG VA funded research and innovation project will improve clinical decision making and patient safety for dementia, diabetes, cardiovascular, acute kidney injury and emergency surgery.

The Centre for Personalised Medicine project brings together 14 academic, healthcare provider and enterprise partner organisations, working together to deliver practical solutions to clinicians to ensure that patients get the right treatment at the right time.

Personalised medicine moves away from the 'one size, fits all' approach, using state-of-the-art genomics testing, technology and computing and intelligence systems to deliver a more targeted approach.

Lead investigator of the Centre, Professor Tony Bjourson, Professor of Genomics at Ulster University and Director of the Northern Ireland Centre for Stratified Medicine said: "The Centre for Personalised Medicine will bring personalised medicine approaches to five of

the most prevalent disease areas to improve the care and treatment of patients in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland. This collaboration extends partnership working to key clinicians in the health sector ensuring that we address real world issues across the five disease areas."

Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, said: "This project reflects one of the core objectives of the INTERREG VA Programme, to improve access to healthcare

services for thousands of citizens. It has great potential as it will bring together a diverse range of cross-border partners to significantly improve clinical decision-making, and personalised treatment approaches, in the fight against five of the most common diseases."

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland and the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland.



Pictured at the launch of the project are (l-r):

Front Row: Paul Boylan, Elaine Farmer, and Mr Dave Loyal.

Middle Row: Professor Carol Curran, Dr Geraldine Horigan, Dr Aaron Peace, Professor Paddy Nixon, Mr Brendan Crossey, Professor Liam Maguire, and Mr Paul Hannigan.

Back Row: Mr Sean Murphy, Dr Michael Sugrue, Dr Maurice O'Kane, Mr Peter Devine, Professor Tony Bjourson, and Mr Eddie Friel.

Capturing the Skills

“They say that a picture is worth a thousand words, and by using photography, we have managed to break down young people’s emotional barriers – especially with the young men, getting them to open up and use our discussions to form ideas for their photos.”

These are the words of Georgia, a 19 year old participant in the €3.5m PEACE IV funded MPOWER project:- a dynamic, youth focused project which is creating real change for approximately 800 young people living on both sides of the border.

Georgia is based in the Derry-Londonderry YMCA and has been taking part in MPOWER’s S.N.A.P project (Street Nature Art Portrait)

over the last six months. The S.N.A.P project has been using photography to capture important issues within local communities.

The project came about when a group of MPOWER participants decided to create a visual document of what sectarianism meant to them. The nine strong group was made up of seven males and two females, aged between 19 and 23.

Initially the group talked about making a short film but decided upon photography.

Whilst looking for subjects to photograph the group visited the bridges of Derry-Londonderry and walked along the river Foyle.

It was at this point that the group

initiated a conversation surrounding mental health and suicide that was to change the focus of their project.

As Georgia notes: “When we walked along the quay the conversation went from sectarianism to mental health issues and just how many teenagers had recently taken their lives within the city.”

“We decided that we would use photography to bring to light the issues young people face with mental health and suicide within Northern Ireland.”

As well as producing a series of striking images, the group significantly researched the topic of mental health in young people. During their sessions, the group noticed that the images they had taken helped them open up and talk about their own mental health. These discussions helped bring about new ideas for photographs and their captions.

The group decided that the best way to highlight their work was to start a blog. This blog went live in September last year and you can visit it here <https://lderrypowersnap.blogspot.com/>

Some of the young men involved in the group have since moved on to new jobs, with Georgia herself moving on to some voluntary work as well as successfully applying to a photo-journalism course at a local college.



Some of the young men involved in the €3.5m MPOWER project.

of Our Young People



A new group of participants have since started the S.N.A.P. project and have also shown a real and creative flair for photography.

Using photography as a tool has opened up a whole new element of creative thinking amongst the groups involved. The new group has even discussed creating an app or game based on geo-coaching that is photo-based and provides information on advice and helplines for users.

Summarising her entire experience Georgia reflected: "As well as learning about ourselves as young people, we have also been gaining skills from our photography and how to think creatively about problems facing us young people."

"Looking into the future with MPOWER we hope to grow stronger as a group and start to look at the bigger issues facing young people in today's society. We hope to turn our blog into a campaign to show young people that it's ok to talk."

For further information on the MPOWER project please visit: <https://sites.google.com/ymca-ireland.org/ymcampower>

Innovative Pilot Cross-Border Grant Scheme Helps Farmers Protect Rivers in Counties Donegal and Tyrone

An innovative new cross-border pilot Land Incentive Scheme was launched in the summer of 2018 that will help protect the water quality of the River Derg, which is the source of drinking water for communities living in Counties Donegal and Tyrone.

This scheme is part of the €5.3m cross-border EU INTERREG VA funded Source to Tap project, which will contribute to improvements in water quality in rivers and lakes in the Erne and Derg catchment areas.

These catchment areas provide water that services parts of counties Fermanagh, Tyrone, Donegal, Cavan, Leitrim and Longford.

Speaking about the project Diane Foster, NI Water Project Manager said: “We are delighted to launch this initiative as part of the overall Source to Tap project, which will give the farming community the opportunity to apply for 100% funding to support land farmers in making small changes. These include using weed-wipe rushes instead of

applying herbicides with boom sprayers and installing stock fencing on watercourses to limit livestock access.”

The overall aim of the project is to protect raw water quality at its source by reducing contaminants getting into the water in the first place and also to raise awareness of the importance of protecting our precious drinking water resources.

The scheme is currently open and will operate until 31 July 2020, on a first come first served basis, through the Source to Tap project.

More information on the pilot Land Incentive Scheme can be found on the Source to Tap project website <https://www.sourcetotap.eu/farm-grants/>

Match-funding for the Source to Tap project has been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Ireland.



Pictured launching the scheme are (l-r): Robin Bolton, CAFRE; Michael Chance, Irish Farmers' Association; Diane Foster, Source to Tap Project Manager; Paul Harper, NI Water; Trudy Higgins, Irish Water; Mark Horton, The Rivers Trust; and David Brown, Deputy President UFU.

INTERREG VA Programme Educating Scottish School Children about Killer Lung Disease

Both secondary and primary school children in the Dumfries and Galloway area have been learning about the deadly lung disorder chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as part of the €7.7m INTERREG VA BREATH project (Border and Regions Airways Training Hub) led by Dr Keith Thornbury.

Academics and PhD students from the University of the West of Scotland (UWS), including Professor John Lockhart, have been visiting schools across the region in order to raise awareness of the disorder, which has a particular prevalence in the area.

The progressive lung condition is the world's third biggest killer. Scotland and Ireland have some of the highest rates of COPD in the world.

UWS academics are amongst a



Professor John Lockhart educating school children on the deadly lung disease Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease as part of the €7.7m INTERREG VA BREATH project.



To date, over 1,700 school children have been directly involved in the educational drive as part of the project.

consortium of organisations, including Queen's University Belfast and lead partner Dundalk Institute of Technology, involved in the pioneering project aiming to combine their expertise to improve diagnosis, treatment and management of the disease. Public engagement with schools in the regions forms a central part of the BREATH mission, and for Scotland this is coordinated by Dr Anne Crilly.

Presenting in sixteen schools the BREATH team helped to facilitate a number of engaging discussions around the topic. Speaking about his involvement Professor Lockhart said: "We want children to engage with us on our research journey and have been teaching them about the scientific skills needed for researching the deadly disease while at the same time improving their

understanding of lung health and well-being."

"It's been a fantastic experience and we've received a wonderfully enthusiastic response from pupils and teachers alike. We hope to have inspired the next generation of young scientists to take on the baton one day."

To date, over 1,700 school children have already been directly involved in the educational drive, with a number accepting the 'BREATH Challenge,' completion of which has them become certified BREATH School Partners.

Match-funding for the BREATH project has been provided by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation in Ireland and the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland.

Young Volunteers Recognised for their Commitment to PEACE IV Project

Young volunteers from clubs taking part in the €1.7m PEACE IV Sport Uniting Communities project were recently recognised for their commitment to volunteering.

Volunteers aged 14 to 24 from 45 participating football, GAA and rugby clubs across Northern Ireland as well as Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan were recognised for their contributions to their respective sports at a special ceremony held in Titanic, Belfast.

As part of the project these young volunteers participated in the 'Volunteer Now Goldmark Initiative', which has three sets of awards for volunteering: 50 hours, 100 hours and 200 hours (the 200-hour accolade is an award of excellence).

Certificates were awarded to those volunteers who had clocked up the relevant hours in their chosen sport.

Certificates were also presented to participants on the Youth Leadership Programme, who have successfully completed the Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership.

As part of the event, a Q&A session was held with three representatives from the clubs supported by the project which included: Bill Anderson, Chairman of Irish League Premiership Team Institute; City of

Derry Rugby Club youth coach, Daniel Gavigan and Suzanne Conlon, a coach with Tullylish GAC near Banbridge. All three panelists explained that the project was helping them to roll out various programmes.

Since the project was launched in March 2018 it has engaged with thousands of people through numerous activities including Game Of Three Halves events, a Syrian refugee project in Belfast, Club Sport for Peace Days in Donegal and schools from across the province have visited the Education and Heritage Centre at the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park.

Led by the Irish FA in collaboration with Ulster GAA and Ulster Rugby, and with the Football Association of Ireland acting as an official project partner, the overarching aim of the project is to utilise sport to create meaningful and sustained contact between people from different communities and to improve attitudes, respect, inclusion and tolerance.

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland.



Young volunteers taking part in the €1.7m PEACE IV Sport Uniting Communities initiative recently celebrated their dedication to the project in a special ceremony held in Titanic, Belfast.

Theatre Used as Tool to Promote Positive Relations

The €859K PEACE IV Theatre and Peacebuilding Academy project recently kick-started its series of events with the delivery of a play called *The Crack in Everything*.

Conceived by acclaimed artist Jo Egan, the play centred on the true story of six families who experienced the killing of a child during the troubles.

Spanning a timeline of 1971–1981 it depicted memories of love, anger, bravery, despair and humour and was showcased in the Playhouse, Derry-Londonderry and the Brian Friel Theatre, Belfast.

The play is the first of four which will be delivered as part of the project. The Theatre and Peacebuilding Academy is an ambitious truth recovery cross-border project, lead by the Playhouse in partnership with Holywell Trust, Thomas D’Arcy McGee Foundation and Queen’s University, Belfast.

Through the creation of theatre and art, the project will enable participants and audiences to reflect on the impact of the troubles/conflict, as well as promoting dialogue and peace-building techniques to engage with painful memories.

The project is working with victims and survivors, to explore untold stories in a safe and accessible



Marjorie Lesley retelling her experience of the Claudy bomb, which killed her family friend, Kathryn Eakin who was eight years old.

environment, promoting healing and reconciliation in a liberating, healing and transformative way.

Speaking at the projects launch event last year Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: “One of the core objectives of the EU’s PEACE IV Programme is to promote positive relations between people from all backgrounds and cultures. This project will have a profound impact in fostering greater levels of

understanding and reconciliation, on both sides of the border, using creativity as the medium. It will draw upon the skills of internationally-renowned artists with extensive experience in the use of drama and art to help heal divided communities emerging out of conflict.”

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Executive Office and the Department for Rural and Community Development.



Sarah Feeny Morrison retelling the story of her aunt Kathleen’s death. Kathleen was killed by an IRA sniper in 1973.

PEACE IV Project Empowering Women to Get Involved in Public Life

A new €1.5m PEACE IV funded project is working to address the under-representation of women engaged in peace and reconciliation in community, public and political life.

Known as The Next Chapter, the project is helping women take the next step into public and civic life through an extensive training programme, a series of networking events and ten community projects.

Since the project officially launched in March of last year it has had over 1,000 registrations of interest and established ten Chapter Hubs / local networks on both sides of the border.

Groups of local women of all ages and all backgrounds have been undertaking capacity building training and mentoring on topics including peace-building, decision making, developing a powerful voice, gender equality and influencing policy development.

The project is being led by Politics Plus in partnership with Irish Rural Link and the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action.

Highlighting the significance of the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "The region suffers from a real gender imbalance and under-representation of women who are engaged in community, public



Pictured at the official launch event of the Next Chapter project are (l-r): Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB; Gina Miller, Businesswoman and Transparency Campaigner; Dr Evelyn Collins CBE, Chief Executive of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland; Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu, Lawyer, Founder of Women in Leadership Publication, Political & Women's Rights Activist; and Joanne Jennings, Head of Programmes, Politics Plus.

and political life. This project will establish a network of cross-border 'chapter hubs' to facilitate the sharing and development of ideas that will enable women to take a more active role in civic life.

"It offers participants an opportunity to learn more about peace and reconciliation and equips them with the leadership and communications skills needed to make a real difference within their local

community. This will lead to the creation of a more level playing field in which the voices of women can be more clearly heard so that they can effect positive change in a society still emerging from conflict."

Match-funding for The Next Chapter project is provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland.

Inputting Into the Development of Young People

A new €3.8m PEACE IV initiative, known as Peace Bytes, is working across communities to help empower young people across the region.

Using a unique creative ICT approach, along with traditional youth work methodologies, Peace Bytes is working closely with long-standing community-based project partners in Rathcoole, Derry-Londonderry, Newtownabbey and the Merville areas in order to target, recruit and retain young people aged between 14 and 24.

Participants will experience cultural interaction and exchange with members of different communities and have the opportunity to earn a minimum of three OCN qualifications. They will be supported throughout by dedicated youth workers, on a one-to-one basis if necessary, helping to provide better prospects and encouraging them to take a more active role in society.

During the project's launch event, assembled guests were able to see examples of work from the first cohort of young people to go through the Peace Bytes programme, and heard from young people and youth workers about future plans. The event was live-streamed from Peace Bytes centres in Newtownabbey and East Inishowen.

Speaking at the launch event Roger Warnock, Director of the Bytes



The €3.8m Peace Bytes project is creatively using ICT to help empower young people across the region.

Project, said: "Peace Bytes is a vital initiative that will bring the Bytes Project's two decades of experience to communities across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties. Through empowering and engaging with marginalised young people, we hope to foster new cross-community ties and help future leaders flourish. I personally am very excited about both taking on the role of Director and the opportunities that the work of Peace Bytes will bring about for the communities we work with."

Welcoming the project ahead of the launch event was Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, who said: This cross-border project will reach hundreds of vulnerable children and

young people, who may be feeling excluded or marginalised, using a wide-range of innovative online tools and resources. It will take advantage of the latest communication technologies to develop their confidence, resilience and citizenship skills. The project will also meet the core objectives of the EU's PEACE IV Programme as it will positively transform the lives of young people, on both sides of the community, in order to create a more cohesive and peaceful society."

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in Ireland.

€8.8m Investment in Health Research Trials to Benefit People's Health and Well-Being

People from both sides of the border will benefit from health and social care research trials thanks to a new, €8.8m INTERREG VA funded project known as Cross-Border Healthcare Intervention Trials in Ireland Network (CHITIN).

The CHITIN project is a unique cross-border partnership between the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland and the Health Research Board in Ireland. It aims to improve the health and well-being of people living in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Cavan, Monaghan, and Louth) through cross-border research collaborations.

The research will look at key health challenges such as youth mental health, obesity, asthma and stroke.

Welcoming the launch of the CHITIN project, Dr Janice Bailie, Assistant Director, HSC Research and Development Division, Public Health Agency and lead partner on the project said: "Funding of €8.8m for the CHITIN project is great news for health research. Not only is CHITIN going to help benefit the health and well-being of people and help prevent illness, it means that those people who may not have been previously able to access health research have the opportunity to do so in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland."



Dr Janice Bailie presenting the aims of the 11 trials of the CHITIN project and how it is shaping the future of research.

Janice added: "In addition to this, a network of health and social care research professionals will be created and this will help shape research in the future."

At the projects launch event were Aidan and Joan who both had participated in health care trials and spoke about the benefits of doing so. Aidan reflected: "I am fitter, stronger, and healthier than ever before... I now have hope which I never had before." whilst Joan commented: "There is no cure for MS and it was very important for me to take part in clinical trials because I don't want this to happen to anyone else. It is important people participate in trials. Every trial that happens means we learn more. That's the hope for the future, that there will be better treatments and prevention."

Welcoming the project Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "The EU's INTERREG VA Programme seeks to ensure equity of access to healthcare services for all citizens regardless of where they live. This project seeks to improve the health and well-being of people living on both sides of the border, through a unique partnership of healthcare providers with a wealth of experience in the research and delivery of highly effective public health campaigns."

"By working in collaboration they will be laying the foundations for new treatments and preventative measures that can improve the quality of life of thousands of citizens," she continued.

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department of Health in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Award-Winning Wildlife Film Maker Doug Allan Launches New EU Project

Documentary filmmaker Doug Allan recently helped celebrate the launch of a €6.4m, INTERREG VA environment project which will help inform and improve management and monitoring of several Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) between Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

Known as the Marine Protected Area Management and Monitoring project (MarPAMM) it will deliver seabird, benthic habitat, marine mammal and coastal processes models and will culminate in the development of six MPA Management plans, including four novel regional plans.

The project is being led and co-ordinated by researchers from the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and involves another six leading marine research providers, forming a cross-border collaboration network developing tools to protect vulnerable marine habitats and species.

Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB said: "Our shared marine environment, and the many different species which live within it, need to be properly managed so that it can be protected for future generations to come. As nature does not respect any boundaries this work has the most impact when it is conducted on a cross-border basis by a multi-disciplinary team of highly trained

scientists with the specific skill-sets needed to deliver long-term conservation. The MarPAMM project will deliver upon this vital work and in doing so help meet the environmental protection targets of the EU's INTERREG VA Programme across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland."

John Speers, Marine and Fisheries Director at the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, said: "MarPAMM brings together experts across Northern Ireland, Western Scotland and the Border Region of Ireland to study a wide range of marine species and habitats, from the seabed to seabirds. All the data will be used to produce plans supporting the conservation of those marine species, their habitats and the wider environment, helping to safeguard the health and

sustainability of our marine ecosystem for future generations to enjoy."

Minister for the Natural Environment in the Scottish Government, Mairi Gougeon, said: "I am delighted that Marine Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage will be partners in the MarPAMM project, working with other organisations across Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland. This project will improve the marine evidence base, particularly in relation to seabirds, and provide the platform for stakeholder engagement in the development of long-term regional MPA management plans."

Match-funding for this project has been provided by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Ireland.



Doug Allan, cameraman of the UK's most-watched TV show of 2017, *Blue Planet 2*, launched the MarPAMM project by highlighting why marine protected areas matter. (Photo © AFBI).

GenComm's Bioenergy Plant in the Hebrides

Driving one of the UK's first Circular Hydrogen Economies

A €9.39m Interreg North-West Europe-funded renewable hydrogen project will shortly complete works on the installation of its anaerobic digestion plant, which will have the capacity to generate fully renewable hydrogen from biodegradable waste. This will not only generate electricity for the local community on the Isle of Lewis and Harris, but also generate oxygen for the island's fish farms for the breeding of salmon.

The achievement is being made by Pure Energy Centre (PEC) in Stornaway (the Outer Hebrides). PEC is one of ten partners in the Belfast Met led GenComm project.

The main aim of the GenComm project is to enable remote communities to access renewable energy in the form of hydrogen, in a bid to tackle the ongoing and long-term challenge of unreliable grid connection. As part of the 'smart' hydrogen project, PEC's work package has looked at how waste streams can be optimised to produce biogas and generate clean hydrogen.

Paul McCormack, GenComm Project Manager from Belfast Met, the Lead Partner in the project, said: "The GenComm project will demonstrate and validate the maturity of hydrogen as a commercially viable energy medium for the future. This will be



Pictured from (l-r): Paul Mc Cormack, Belfast Met GenComm Programme Manager; Wolf Clemens and Bodo Gros from GenComm partner IZES Germany; and Elizabeth Johnson, MBE at GenComm's bioenergy plant.

researched via three pilot plants in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Germany; each linking different renewable sources (Solar Power, Wind Power, and Bio-energy) to hydrogen energy storage, for heat, power and transport. From the pilot plants, technical and financial models will then be developed, with the overall aim of producing a 'Decision Support Tool' (DST). This online tool will provide a roadmap for

communities and energy stakeholders to transition to renewable, hydrogen-based energy; enabling them to identify if their local electrical network grid circumstances and availability of renewable resources make hydrogen a good fit."

The North West Europe Programme - Ninth Call for Applications

The ninth call for project proposals under the North West Europe Programme is open until 14 June 2019.

The €370 million programme is looking for transnational co-operation initiatives that can deliver concrete results for the North-West Europe area.

If you have an idea that could make one of the programme objectives a reality, contact Declan McGarrigle at SEUPB (Declan.mcgarrrigle@seupb.eu).

Thematic Focus

The current call for proposals is only open to priority 1 and priority 3 of the NWE Programme. Each of these priorities has one specific objective. Transnational partnerships are therefore invited to submit their project application under one of these two priorities.

Priority 1: Innovation

Specific Objective 1: To enhance innovation performance of enterprises throughout NWE regions.

Priority 3: Resource and Materials Efficiency

Specific Objective 5: To optimise (re)use of material and natural resources in NWE.

Within priority 1, and without excluding in any way other relevant topics for this priority, the NWE programme would welcome in

particular projects dealing with:

- Social innovation, including projects addressing the migration related challenge, focusing on the integration of recognised refugees on the mid and long-term, in particular in the domain of entrepreneurship, employment and access to the labour market.
- Innovative products, processes and technologies contributing to CO2 reduction and the green economy, including green transport, in line with the big societal challenges addressed by the Paris Agreement.

Within priority 3, the NWE programme is specifically interested in projects focusing on circular economy.

Since the beginning of the programming period in 2014, 55 projects have been approved (21 on Innovation, 23 on Low Carbon and 11 on Resource & Materials Efficiency) and €177 million have been allocated to these projects. This does not take into account on-going development of projects from calls 7 and 8.



The ninth call for project proposals under the NW Europe Programme is open until the 14th June 2019.

Events

A Northern Ireland Information Seminar will be held during the Call period, please check SEUPBs website, www.seupb.eu and twitter feeds (@SEUPB) for further information and announcements.

A transnational 'Project Ideas Lab' will be held on the 2nd April 2019 in Brussels and will be a unique opportunity to develop your project application. It is the perfect occasion to network, find partners, meet the Interreg NWE team and get useful tips for submitting a successful application in June 2019.

To register for the Project Ideas Lab and for more detailed information concerning this Call, please visit the programme website – www.nweurope.eu

Programme Summaries and SEUPB Contacts

PEACE IV

The €270m PEACE Programme 2014-2020 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.

The Programme's key objectives are:

- Shared Education
- Children & Young People
- Shared Spaces & Services
- Building Positive Relations

The eligible area for the Programme is Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo).

For further information on the PEACE IV Programme contact:

Joint Secretariat Omagh,
Tel: +44 (0) 28 8225 5750
E: omagh@seupb.eu or Belfast,
Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660
E: info@seupb.eu

INTERREG VA

The €283m INTERREG Programme 2014-2020 has been designed to address many of the developmental problems which are exacerbated by the existence of borders, in order to build upon opportunities for enhanced economic and social development across the region.

The Programme's key priorities are:

- Research & Innovation
- Environment
- Sustainable Transport
- Health

The targeted eligible area is Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo) and western Scotland (Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute, Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire mainland, and South Ayrshire).

For further information on the INTERREG VA Programme contact:

Joint Secretariat,
Monaghan.
Tel: + 353 (0)47 77003
E: monaghan@seupb.eu or

Caroline Coleman, National Contact Point for Scotland, Scotland
Europa, 150 Broomielaw, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow G2 8LU.
Tel: +44 (0) 141 228 2202
E: Caroline.Coleman@scotland.co.uk

INTERREG VB Transnational Programmes

The SEUPB has a role supporting the development of projects submitted to any of the INTERREG VB/VC Programmes.

These programmes are:

The Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme

This €56million ERDF programme aims to help peripheral and remote communities in the northern regions of Europe to develop their economic, social and environmental potential. The programme area involves parts of Finland, Ireland, Sweden, Scotland, Northern Ireland – in cooperation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. SEUPB is the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland.

The North West Europe Programme

This €370 million ERDF programme aims to help make this new region more competitive, environmentally friendly and cohesive by improving access to more and better jobs, enhancing the environmental qualities of the region, improving accessibility and ensuring that cities and rural areas are attractive and sustainable. The programme area is France, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland Luxembourg, Belgium, and Switzerland. The SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role.

The Atlantic Area Programme

The programme aims to achieve progress on transnational co-operation that is geared towards cohesive, sustainable and balanced territorial development of the Atlantic Area and its maritime heritage. The programme region covers all of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and those regions within Portugal, Spain, France and the UK that border the Atlantic Ocean. The SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role.

INTERREG EUROPE Programme

The €359 million ERDF INTERREG VC Inter-regional Programme is aimed at local and regional authorities. It focuses on the identification, analysis and dissemination of good practices by public authorities in order to improve the effectiveness of regional and local policies. Co-operation projects are eligible across all 28 EU states, plus Norway and Switzerland.

For further information on VB and VC Programmes, contact:

Declan McGarrigle at the SEUPB Belfast office:
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