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**European Union**  
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**NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE BORDER REGION OF IRELAND  
EU PROGRAMME FOR PEACE & RECONCILIATION  
(2014 - 2020)**

**CCI No: 2014TC16RFPC001**

**MINUTES MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018  
Youth Action NI, Belfast**

**Attendance**

A list of attendees and apologies is attached at Annex II.

**Welcome and introduction by Chairperson**

**The Chair** welcomed attendees to this fifth meeting of the PEACE IV Programme Monitoring Committee 2014 -2020, and introduced **the European Commission Desk Officer, Tamara Pavlin**, and **acting JS Head of Unit, Paul Boylan**, replacing **John Greer**.

**The Chair** also welcomed a number of new Members and Advisors to the Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC), including **Ian McKenna of the Department of Education and Skills**, replacing **Laurence O'Grady**, and **Deirdre Maloney of the Department for Rural and Community Development**, replacing **Paul Geraghty**.

**The Chair** asked that her thanks to **Laurence O'Grady, Paul Geraghty** and **John Greer** were recorded for their extensive work on the PEACE Programme.

**The Chair** provided an update on developments in Programme implementation since the previous PMC meeting on 29th November 2018, which consisted of the following main points;

- Northern Ireland-Ireland cooperation remains a leading priority in Brexit negotiations;
- The SEUPB are encouraged by specific mention of the continuation of North-South cooperation, and a commitment to the current Peace and Interreg Programmes, in the European Commission's Communication to the European Council on the progress of Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom, released in December 2017;
- A commitment to the Programmes is understood to be included within the EU Commission's Multi-Financial Framework, which will be published on 2nd May;
- **The Chair** provided reassurance of the certainties around funding for the current programming period with the HMT UK guarantee and potentially beyond;
- The lack of a functioning Northern Ireland Executive has not unduly impacted the implementation of the Programmes, at this time;
- **The Chair** outlined two recent International events of interest; the SEUPB's major showcasing event in Brussels in November 2017, and a visit from representatives of the European Parliament's Committee for Regional Policy on a fact finding mission in March 2018. **The Chair** noted the positive feedback from both events, and;
- **The Chair** informed Members of the release of a second call for applications under the Shared Spaces and Services objective on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The SEUPB are holding three workshops in May and June 2018, to assist applicants with the application process.

**The Chair** reminded Members of previous interest in visiting the projects being discussed in PMC meeting papers. To this end, **the Chair** thanked Youth Action NI for hosting today's meeting, and informed Members of the project tours and presentations taking place later in the agenda. In addition, **the Chair** invited Members to attend the launch of the Youth Network for Peace project following lunch.

## **1. Agree Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted.

## **2. Conflict of Interest Declaration**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting – 29 November 2017**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.

### **4. Matters Arising**

The Committee noted the resolution of all matters arising from the previous meeting.

### **5. Update on the implementation of PEACE IV 2014 – 2020 Programme**

**The MA Director** introduced the Programme Implementation paper and provided a detailed presentation.

**The NILGA/ Sinn Fein representative** requested clarification on cumulative figures within the implementation report.

**The EU Commission Desk Officer** clarified that the final 2023 Performance Framework financial target within **the MA Director's** presentation includes Technical Assistance (TA) whereas the Priority Axis target should have been fixed exclusive of TA. This should be addressed in the upcoming programme modification.

**The MA Director** reminded Committee Members that TA can total up to 6% of the Programme value, or €14 million of the current PEACE IV Programme. He noted that future reporting will include Technical Assistance analysis.

**The MA Director** clarified that the 2018 N+3 target is €27.9 million, inclusive of initial Programme pre-financing and Annual pre-financing.

The MA Director outlined current progress against the Performance Framework target and indicated that he will report specifically on this at all future meetings. He asked **the acting JS Head of Unit** to provide further detail on Programme implementation

**The acting JS Head of Unit** provided a presentation on implementation by thematic area which included the following main points;

- The Peace IV Programme contains 86 approved projects, representing 78% Programme commitment;
- 95% of the Programme outputs have been committed;
- Local Authorities have been requested to re-bid to ensure full allocation under the Children and Young People objective,
- €12.3 million is under consideration by Accountable Departments and Member States for transfer between the Local Authority Children and Young People and Regional Level objectives;
- Following issues in evidencing demand and sustainability during the assessment process; two Shared Space projects are currently with Accountable Departments for approval;
- The JS are working with the Councils under the Local Action Plans to navigate issues around the technical splits in the eMS system, and;
- The final rebid process is underway for five remaining Local Authority Action Plans;
- In February 2018, significant progress was made in allocating €4 million rebid funds to eleven Local Authority Action Plans.

**The Monitoring Committee** made the following comments and observations:

- Queried whether projects rejected in Stage 1 of the Shared Space call for applications may attend upcoming workshops under the second call;
- Were reassured by the level of quality control demonstrated in the original Shared Space call;
- Welcomed the additional support for local authorities through thematic workshops and technical support;
- Questioned if the approval of a Development Support Body may have resulted in an increased number of approved applications under the Shared Space objective;
- Communicated feedback from local authorities regarding delays to claim payments while the eMS system undergoes a live modification;
- Discussed the Local Authority Peace IV Managers Forum's request for a network and sharing event as a platform for engagement and sharing of best practice, and

as a means of avoiding duplication of services between Local Authority and Regional projects;

- Queried the approach in requiring a number of Councils to manage and administer resource allocation monies on behalf of appointed delivery agents;
- Requested further information on the quality monitoring systems in place in the second Shared Space call, and whether the proposed shared spaces encourage genuine communication between different communities:
- Requested further detail on the approach to overcommitment within the Programme;
- Requested more information on the level of interaction and attitudinal change taking place through the Shared Education interventions, and;
- Requested more information on the level of project delivery managed by the Voluntary and Community sector under the local authorities.

**The MA Director** confirmed projects which were rejected under the previous Shared Space call are encouraged to apply to the new call, and the consultant leading the Workshops will provide 1.5 days of consultation with each applicant

**The MA Director** also stated that the one stage call for applications under Shared Space was developed with the agreement of the Steering Committee and the EU Commission and will be included in the upcoming CP modification request.

In her response, **the Chair** clarified that the rejection of projects under the original Shared Space call related to a range of issues rather than a lack of quality projects.

In terms of overcommitment, **the Chair** reiterated that overcommitment is being sought in certain themes as a prudent approach to risk, and is an ongoing process in consultation with Member States and the EU Commission.

**The JS Manager** confirmed the SEUPB have received the request for a Local Authority – Regional networking event and recognise the risk of duplication, and now require Local Authorities to monitor the issue. The SEUPB will liaise with the Managers Forum in arranging this event in the near future.

**The Chair** added that the SEUPB are currently working to reorder JS staff responsible for the Local Action Plans, in order to implement greater coordination and provide a dedicated in-house resource.

Referring to the measurement of impact under Shared Space, **the MA Director** explained the use of result indicators, which differs from the Programme's output indicators, which will be assessed in a separate longitudinal Impact Evaluation.

**The acting JS Head of Unit** addressed the comments on the Local Authority rebids, confirming they will be assessed by Steering Committee in June 2018.

He continued to explain the role of the Joint Secretariat and their three-monthly project visits in measuring outputs on the ground and against a detailed plan of deliverables.

Addressing the comments on Shared Education, **the Chair** described the Shared Education launch in April 2018, which was attended by project representatives, teachers and schools. She described the relationships emerging from the Programme interventions, which have developed beyond the Programme outputs and community boundaries.

**The Department of Education** representative confirmed they are receiving feedback on genuine attitudinal change as a result of Programme activity.

**The acting JS Head of Unit** stated that the current delivery mechanism, with regards to the administration of resource allocation funds, is in place at the request of the Councils in question.

Lastly, **the Chair** provided a response on project delivery provided by the Community and Voluntary sector, stating that the original intention in designing the Local Authority Action plans theme prioritised Community and Voluntary sector organisations as the main delivery agents, as best-placed to deliver activity on the ground. She reiterated that any decisions on delivery were made with intrinsic involvement from the both Local Authorities and the Community and Voluntary sector.

**The EU Commission Desk Officer** made the following comments;

- Highlighted the need, as previously stated by the DoF representative, for consistency of figures reported throughout the Implementation paper;
- Requested the addition of a paragraph on Priority Axis 2 to future Implementation papers;
- Requested the inclusion of result indicators in the implementation papers;

- Noted issues and noticeable delays experienced across the Shared Space call, as well as the training and workshops being provided;
- Agreed with **the MA Director** on the inclusion of Performance Framework milestones in the next PMC paper;
- Queried a 1% difference in the commitment levels which appeared in the papers, and received clarification from **the MA Director** that the difference relates to rounding and will be corrected for future consistency;
- Requested further detail on “My Time, My Place” listed under Specific Objective 4, in order to ensure alignment with the specific objectives of the Cooperation Programme document;
- Welcomed upcoming training, and highlighted the need for State Aid training, and;
- Highlighted a factual error to page 21 of the Implementation paper, as the CP modification has not yet been “formally submitted to the EU Commission”

**The MA Director** responded, stating that “My Time My Place” is a result of Accountable Department collaboration in the North and South of Ireland, with further meetings scheduled to take place the day following the meeting, which he invited **the EU Commission Desk Officer** to attend.

**The DoF representative** recognised the level of Programme commitment and the progress of the second Shared Space call for applications. He commended the work of the Accountable Departments for their role in working with the SEUPB regarding Programme delivery, and emphasised the importance of maintaining this working partnership.

**The DPER representative** thanked Youth Action for hosting the PMC meeting. He commended the SEUPB for the successful closure of the previous Peace Programme and for the high levels of commitment within the current Programme, noting the contrast against uncertain discussions the previous year.

**The DPER representative** also highlighted the Peace Learning Platform as a repository in recording the legacy of all Peace Programmes in the region, and recognising the achievement of the €2.2 billion European investment to date.

**The Chair** thanked **the EU Commission Desk Officer for her comments**, which will be taken into consideration and actioned.

**The Chair** thanked **the Member State representatives** for their comments, and recognised the political will towards continuation of both the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes post 2020. She emphasised the SEUPB's status as a cross border body established under the Good Friday Agreement, as with the aim of developing cross border cooperation through the EU funded Programme.

**The Monitoring Committee;**

- Noted the progress made with regards to programme implementation, and;
- Noted progress made with regards to the regulatory requirements of the Programmes including use of the eMS.

## **6. Communications Update**

**The Communications Manager** provided a presentation which outlined recent funding announcements, a further Programme Showcase to be held in Dublin's Leinster House, the positive or neutral tone of media coverage surrounding the Programme, the results of the Stakeholder and Awareness Survey 2017/18, and SEUPB's engagement with stakeholders over social media.

**The EU Commission representative** thanked **the Communications Manager** for his presentation and welcomed the increased visibility of the Programme.

She advised Members that a draft report from the European Parliament's delegation to Northern Ireland, which is a positive reflection of the Programme, is available to view on the European Parliament's website.

The report recommends that further action should be taken to increase general awareness of the achievements and lessons learned of the PEACE programmes to date. The report also advocates for the continuation of the PEACE and Interreg programmes post 2020.

**The Chair** agreed with **the Desk Officer's comments**, and discussed the potential to take the SEUPB's Showcase to Westminster, at a suitable time, given the sensitivities, in order to raise the profile of the good work of the Programmes.

**The DPER representative** also welcomed the comments, emphasising the importance of Programme visibility and reminding Members of the region's wish to maintain support from the European Union, as reflected in the EU Referendum results in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

**The Monitoring Committee;**

- Noted the Communications Activity since the last Programme Monitoring Committee meeting, and;
- Noted progress in implementation of the Communications Strategy.

## **7. Annual Implementation Report 2017**

**The Chair** introduced the Annual Implementation Report update paper to Members and invited comments from the Monitoring Committee.

**The EU Commission representative** made the following main points;

- The deadline for AIR submission this year is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018;
- Requested that the SEUPB examine the result indicators in the context of recommendations made in the previous year's acceptance letter;
- Requested the inclusion of a brief statement regarding reporting progress on achievement of results indicators when submitting the AIR to the Commission, and;
- Requested corrections to Table 2 on reporting the output indicators, and offered her assistance in making the amendments.

**The DoF representative** informed Members that the Department had submitted comments on the Annual Implementation Report to the SEUPB in writing, in advance of today's meeting.

**The CNCC representative** queried why the metres squared measurement of open spaces was in the Shared Space indicators, rather than the number of actual beneficiaries, and received an explanation of common output indicators from **the EU Commission Desk Officer**.

**The Environmental Pillar representative** queried the origins of the 20,000 metre squared target value under the same call.

**The Chair** stated that the figure is based on detailed analysis and experience gained from previous Programmes, of similar projects.

**The Monitoring Committee;**

- Approved the Annual Implementation Report for the Peace IV Programme, subject to any requested amendments.

## **8. Evaluation Plan Update**

**The Chair** introduced the Evaluation Plan update paper and welcomed any comments.

No additional comments were made and **the Monitoring Committee;**

- Noted progress made in implementing the Programme's Evaluation Plan;
- Noted the summary findings of the Implementation Evaluation and action plan to address recommendations, and;
- Noted the progress in initialising the Impact Evaluations for the Programme.

## **9. Review Panel Update**

**The Chair** introduced the Review Panel update paper, and provided further detail on the single Review Panel meeting which has taken place since the previous meeting.

**The Monitoring Committee;**

- Noted the information on reviews conducted since the last meeting, and;
- Considered volunteering for review panel membership

## **10. A.O.B.**

**The Chair** took the opportunity to record her sincere thanks to **Brenda Hegarty, JS Manager**, who is leaving the SEUPB after 16 years, and wished her luck in her future position in Donegal County Council.

#### **11. Project Presentation – The AMPLIFY and Youth Network for Peace Projects**

**The Chair** thanked Members for attending and introduced **Martin McMullan of Youth Action NI**, before providing a brief outline of their two PEACE IV- funded projects, AMPLIFY under the Children and Young People 14 to 24 objective and the Youth Network for Peace Project under the Regional objective.

The Members participated in tours of the two projects, led by Martin McMullan and the projects' student youth workers.

Following lunch, a number of PMC Members also attended the launch of the Youth Network for Peace project.

#### **12. Date of next meeting**

Before departing for the tours, **the Chair** stated that the next PMC meeting will follow a similar format and incorporate a project visit, to take place in autumn 2018.

**ANNEX I**

**ACTION POINTS/ISSUES OF CLARIFICATION  
ARISING FROM MONITORING COMMITTEE  
Tuesday 01 May 2018, Youth Action NI Offices, Belfast**

**ACTION POINTS**

<b><u>Agenda Item</u></b>	<b><u>Action Point</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>	<b><u>Responsibility</u></b>
7 Annual Implementation Report	1	SEUPB to examine the result indicators against recommendations made in 2017's EU Commission acceptance letter	MA
7 Annual Implementation Report	2	SEUPB to include a brief statement regarding reporting progress on achievement of results indicators when submitting the AIR to the Commission.	MA
7 Annual Implementation Report	3	SEUPB to correct Table 2 of AIR (output indicators)	MA

## **ANNEX II**

### **Attendance – PEACE IV Programme Monitoring Committee, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018, Youth Action NI Offices, Belfast**

#### **Chair**

Gina McIntyre                      SEUPB

#### **Members**

Paul Boylan	Joint Secretariat, SEUPB
Caitlin Connelly	NWRA
Ivan Cooper	The Wheel
Cllr Dermot Curran	NILGA/ SDLP
Cllr Frank Dolan	Northern Western Regional Assembly (NWRA)
Mark Feeney	Managing Authority, SEUPB
Ruth Gallagher	Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
Cllr Garath Keating	NILGA
Seamus McAleavey	NICVA
Dominic McCullough	Department of Finance NI
Dr Aedin McLoughlin	The Environmental Pillar
Paddy McGinn	Pobal
Gearoid O’Keeffe	Department for Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER)
Cllr Paul Robinson	NILGA/ DUP
Paul Sheridan	Head of Finance and Corporate Services, SEUPB
Emily Smyth	CNCC

#### **Advisors**

Andrew Bell	Department of Education
Donna Blaney	The Executive Office
Joanne Breen	The Executive Office
John Gilbane	Department for Children and Youth Affairs
Brenda Hegarty	Joint Secretariat, SEUPB
Andrew Johnston	Department for Communities
Therese Lynch	Certifying Authority, SEUPB
Deirdre Maloney	Department for Rural and Community Development

Marie Matthews	The Executive Office
John McCandless	Communications, SEUPB
Tony McKibben	Department for Communities (DfC)
Ian McKenna	Department of Education and Skills
Rory Muldrew	Department for the Economy (DfE)
Tamara Pavlin	European Commission
Michael Power	NISRA

**Presenter**

Martin McMullan	Youth Action NI
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**Observers**

Jonathan Ashe	Department of Finance NI
Catherine Clynes	DPER
Helen Donaldson	Joint Secretariat, the SEUPB
Sean McAteer	North South Ministerial Council
Emer McGeough	North South Ministerial Council
Lisa O’Kane	NILGA
James Russell	MA, SEUPB
Maura Young	MA, SEUPB

**Secretariat (SEUPB)**

Tara McCormick	Managing Authority (minutes)
Grainne Vallely	Managing Authority, SEUPB

**Apologies**

Wesley Aston	Ulster Farmers Union
Cllr Tommy Byrne	EMRA
Alderman Angus Carson	NILGA
Michael D’Arcy	IBEC
Alderman Freda Donnelly	NILGA
Pamela Dooley	ICTU Northern Ireland
Damian Duffy	Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
Tom Lavin	Irish Rural Link
Dr Aedin McLoughlin	The Environmental Pillar

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### **ANNEX III**

#### **Glossary of acronyms used in the minutes:**

<b>CNCC</b>	<b>Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside</b>
<b>DAERA</b>	<b>Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs</b>
<b>DfE</b>	<b>Department for the Economy</b>
<b>DHPCLG</b>	<b>Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government</b>
<b>DOF</b>	<b>Department of Finance (Northern Ireland)</b>
<b>DJEI</b>	<b>Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation</b>
<b>DoH</b>	<b>Department of Health NI</b>
<b>DPER</b>	<b>Department of Public Expenditure and Reform</b>
<b>EMRA</b>	<b>Eastern &amp; Midland Regional Authority</b>
<b>eMS</b>	<b>Electronic Monitoring System</b>
<b>ESG</b>	<b>Evaluation Steering Group</b>
<b>EC</b>	<b>European Commission</b>
<b>ICTU</b>	<b>Irish Congress of Trade Unions</b>
<b>NICVA</b>	<b>Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action</b>
<b>NILGA</b>	<b>Northern Ireland Local Government Association</b>
<b>NISRA</b>	<b>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency</b>
<b>NSMC</b>	<b>North South Ministerial Council</b>

<b>NWRA</b>	<b>Northern Western Regional Assembly</b>
<b>SEUPB</b>	<b>Special European Union Programmes Body</b>
<b>JS</b>	<b>Joint Secretariat</b>
<b>MA</b>	<b>Managing Authority</b>
<b>VSS</b>	<b>The Victims and Survivors Service</b>

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