



PRESS RELEASE

6th October 2015

EUROPEAN UNION OFFERS €62.35M (£45.85M) TO ENHANCE CROSS-BORDER HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE FOR 50,000 PEOPLE

The EU's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), will provide €62.35m (£45.85m) in funding to support cross-border health and social care initiatives over the next seven years.

The funding will help a target figure of approximately 50,000 people access a wide-range of different health and social care services including mental health provision, support for socially isolated disabled people and enhanced community care for older people.

Support will also be provided to assist 5,000 vulnerable families and finance for up to ten new cross-border healthcare intervention trials. The funding call is now open and will close on Monday 16th November 2015.

In line with the new result orientation of all EU funding, potential project beneficiaries must be able to clearly demonstrate their ability to meet the results and outputs of the new Programme.

Match-funding for the call has been provided by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland, the Department of Health in Ireland and the Scottish Executive.

A range of different projects and initiatives will be financed through the call which will address health inequalities for people living in isolated rural areas and support better life outcomes for people with a disability.

Welcoming the funding the Irish Health Minister, Leo Varadkar said: **“The Interreg VA Programme offers a unique opportunity for citizens, health professionals, and others to be part of cross-border collaboration to improve the health and well-being of those living in our border regions. It will allow us to build on the excellent work that has**



gone before in previous programmes; excellent work made possible by the commitment of those facilitating, delivering and engaging with the projects.

“ERDF funding has been important in Ireland’s economic development, including its regional development. I hope that we will see demonstrable added value from the cross-border collaboration facilitated by the Programme; collaboration that will result in cost effective service delivery solutions appropriate to the needs and priorities of our health systems but which ultimately benefit our citizens.”

Commenting on the health and social care call, Gina McIntyre Chief Executive (Designate) of the SEUPB, said: **“The funding will invest in a number of health and social care sectors where the greatest need has been demonstrated and where the value of cross-border cooperation can deliver the greatest results.**

“This is one of the core objectives of the new INTERREG VA Programme, as it will support the development of a more joined-up and efficient cross-border healthcare system, which will benefit tens of thousands of people at a time of budgetary pressure and rising demand.”

The funding will support projects based in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland. For more information on the funding call go to www.seupb.eu

- ENDS.

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Notes to Editor:

Special EU Programmes Body

- The SEUPB is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. It is responsible for managing two EU Structural Funds Programmes, PEACE IV and INTERREG VA which are designed to enhance cross-border co-operation, promote reconciliation and create a more peaceful and prosperous society.
- The Programmes operate within a clearly defined area including Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and in the case of INTERREG VA, Western Scotland.



- The INTERREG VA Programme has a value of €283 million and aims to address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders.
- For more information on the SEUPB please visit www.seupb.eu