



Press Release

Date: 16 December 2016

MINISTERS DONOHOE AND Ó MUILLEOIR SEE FIRST-HAND THE IMPACT OF EU FUNDING IN DERRY

The Executive Minister of Finance, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, and the Irish Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe, today visited a number of PEACE and INTERREG funded projects across the city of Derry.

During the last programming period (2007-2013) the city received approximately €89 million under both the PEACE III and INTERREG VA funding Programmes. In total, Donegal has received approximately €42 million from both Programmes.

During the visit the Ministers were given a brief tour of the Peace Bridge which was officially launched in 2011. This was followed by a visit to the Nerve Centre, which was responsible for the delivery of the PEACE III funded 'Teaching Divided Histories' and 'Fab Lab' projects.

The 'Teaching Divided Histories' project brought together post-primary teachers on a cross-border basis in the use of digital media, film imagery, animation and webcasting to explore common experiences of conflict in peace building.

The 'Fab Lab' project was designed to support peace and stability through the provision of a community and enterprise training programme for jobseekers, and other interested individuals, on a cross-community basis.

Highlighting the importance of the visit the Executive, Finance Minister Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, said: **"This visit was an excellent opportunity to see firsthand the benefits EU funding has brought to the North West. The region received approximately €130m from the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA programmes and this is testament to the vision and the hard work of those involved in developing and implementing projects. The North West is at the forefront of cross border working and I, along with those I have met, are ardent supporters of the positive impacts these interventions bring to the local communities and the region.**



“I look forward to the implementation of PEACE IV and INTERREG VA projects in the region. I am committed to working with Executive colleagues and the Irish government to ensure we continue to deliver projects on a cross-border basis that make a positive impact on the ground, he continued.

Welcoming this development Irish Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe, T.D, said: **“I am pleased to be in Derry where the Peace Bridge is a very visible demonstration of the support that the European Union has given to the process of peace building and reconciliation over almost a quarter of a century. It is important that such funding continues.**

“The Irish Government is committed to the successful implementation of the PEACE and INTERREG programmes to 2020 and beyond. We are proud that we were able to secure EU funding for the current PEACE programme and are determined to reach agreement with the EU and the UK on successor programmes so that the valuable work I have seen today can continue,” he continued.

Accompanying the Ministers on their first joint visit to the city Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB, responsible for managing the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes, said:

“This visit was a great opportunity for both Ministers to see at first hand the impact and benefits that EU funding has brought to the North West region. We are now in the process of implementing the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA 2014-2020 EU Programmes, and funding has already been awarded to the local area.

“As an organisation we are looking forward to seeing how these new projects will further positively transform the lives of people living in Derry and also in Donegal,” she continued.

For the final part of the visit the Ministers were given a tour of the Catalyst Innovation Centre in Derry. The INTERREG IVA funded project involved the construction of a 50,000 sq ft science park facility at Fort George and a 20,000 sq ft extension to the CoLab facility at Letterkenny Institute of Technology.



Special EU Programmes Body
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects

Now completed, both facilities act as a satellite park of the internationally acclaimed Catalyst Inc; extending the reach of the Catalyst Inc into the whole of the North West Business Technology Zone.

Last week, the SEUPB also announced funding for a €14.86 million Green Way project that will connect Derry via Pennyburn to Buncrana. Called the 'North West Greenways Network' the multi-million euro project will be delivered by Derry City and Strabane District Council in partnership with Donegal County Council.

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Notes to Editor:

SEUPB

- The Special EU Programmes Body is a North/South Implementation Body sponsored by the Department of Finance in the North 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 the North of Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and in the case of INTERREG VA, Western Scotland.
- For more information on the SEUPB please visit www.seupb.eu