

YOUR EU!

The latest news from the European Union's PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes

Launch of 'Accounts of the Conflict'



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
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**Northern Ireland
Executive**

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The Special EU Programmes Body 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. 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 Technical Secretariat functions for the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Territorial Co-operation Programmes (2007–2013). It also has a signposting and supporting role for projects wanting to engage with the INTERREG IVB Transnational and INTERREG IVC Inter-regional Programmes.

Your EU! ISSN:1750-6700 Published by the Special EU Programmes Body www.seupb.eu
To submit ideas, material and photographs for the next issue, please e-mail communications@seupb.eu
For additional copies of Your EU! or to be added to the database to receive an electronic copy contact us by e-mail at communications@seupb.eu

Editorial and Production Management:
John McCandless
Copy Writing: Sarah Hughes

Design: www.l-s-d.com
This magazine is printed by Print Library.

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Foreword

Welcome to the winter edition of Your EU!, which features the latest news from a wide range of projects which are funded under the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes.

We begin with a trio of good news stories from Derry~Londonderry.

The new North West Regional Science Park, based at Fort George in Derry and the Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT), has been recognised for its commitment to cross-border relations by a prominent European body.

Also in the city, building work has commenced on the 'Garden of Reflection', located in the Pump Street Courtyard. The garden will be a major resource for community relations and cross-border relationship building and has benefitted from £2.1 million of funding through the European Union's PEACE III Programme.

Our 'Real Life' feature takes a look at the Nerve Centre's innovative 'Teaching Divided Histories' project which has had tremendous success in introducing new, curriculum-linked, digital approaches to the study of conflict into schools in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and internationally.

The digital theme continues with the 'Accounts of the Conflict' archive, an EU PEACE III-funded permanent digital archiving project which was launched by Ulster University Chancellor Dr James Nesbitt recently.

The archive has been developed by the International Conflict Research Institute at the university and aims to preserve personal accounts of the conflict in Northern Ireland for future generations.

In the border region, fourteen creative entrepreneurs will be introduced to the marketplace in 2015 thanks to 'Harnessing Creativity', a unique INTERREG-funded three year programme which is one of the largest creative enterprises ever undertaken in the North West. To date a total of 440 participants from counties Leitrim, Tyrone, Fermanagh and the wider region have availed of masterclasses in new and emerging digital technologies, mentoring and business development training as part of the project.

In advance of the launch of the new PEACE and INTERREG Programmes 2014-2020 later this year, the SEUPB will be hosting a series of pre-application development



workshops in late February/ March to provide generic information for those seeking assistance under the new programmes. All details and locations will be available from our website at www.seupb.eu

If you have any feedback on this edition of Your EU! or suggestions for content for future editions, please contact the SEUPB's Communications team at communications@seupb.eu

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body

FOREWORD...

Minister hails 'River Links Project' legacy

PROJECT NEWS

Rural Development Minister Michelle O'Neill has hailed the EU INTERREG IVA funded 'River Links Project' for promoting all-island co-operation and supporting the needs of rural communities.

Minister O'Neill was addressing the 'Opportunities in Rural Areas' conference in Co. Donegal, which showcased the benefits of the 'River Links Project' prior to its formal closure and also featured case studies on successful business and rural initiatives from across the island of Ireland.

Minister O'Neill said: *"As the 'River Links Project' formally comes to a close the legacy it leaves will be one of a stronger infrastructure which benefits local people, visitors and the wider economy for many years to come."*

She continued: *"A rural setting can be a major advantage to developing and diversifying the economy on the island of Ireland. The availability of a skilled workforce, third level educational institutes and modern business premises, all set against a backdrop of an unspoilt environment, lends itself to achieving a quality work-life balance."*

Delegates at the Donegal conference saw video presentations on the outputs developed by the 'River Links Project' over the three year period since 2011. These included interviews with community representatives and local councillors focusing on the Doneyloop Footpath, Clady Bridge & Village, Stranorlar Community Enterprise Centre (The BASE), Foyle Wetlands and the Foyle & Finn Rural Network.

Speaking at the event, Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB, said: *"By supporting the practical development of local towns and villages the 'River Links Project' has helped to ensure that they will remain prosperous and sustainable for many years to come."*

Pictured at the official opening of the Doneyloop footpath are elected representatives, management and staff from Donegal County Council and Strabane District Council along with members of the community and staff from the 'River Links Project'.



"This is one of the core objectives of the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme as it was designed to support strategic cross-border co-operation to improve the quality of life for people living on both sides of the border", he added.

'Voices from the Valley Park' sod turning

PROJECT NEWS...

The delivery of a £3.58 million EU PEACE III funded shared space project for the Valley Park in Newtownabbey took a significant step forward recently as a sod turning ceremony was held to mark the start of construction of the project.



Pictured at the sod turning ceremony for the 'Voices from the Valley Park' project are (L-R): Social Development Minister, Mervyn Storey, MLA; Pat Colgan, Chief Executive with the SEUPB and Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive of Newtownabbey Borough Council.

The 'Voices from the Valley Park' project will transform 2.2 acres of under-used space into a state-of-the-art 3G sports pitch, a picturesque linear park and an adventure play area. Commenting on the project, Pat Colgan Chief Executive with the SEUPB, said:

"This shared space project has been designed to encourage people from all backgrounds to come together and learn from each other through an interest in sport, recreation and arts-based activities. Upon completion it is hoped that the project will encourage many positive relationships to be forged."

It is also hoped that the project will provide tangible health and wellbeing benefits for those accessing the new facilities, particularly those from a disadvantaged background.

The Valley Leisure Centre currently has a range of small

five-a-side 3G soccer pitches. The proposed new 3G pitch will be full size and capable of facilitating soccer, Gaelic games and rugby and will become a focal point for a diverse range of community-based activities.

Match funding for the project has been provided by the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in Ireland.

Speaking at the sod turning ceremony, Social Development Minister, Mervyn Storey, MLA, said: *"The 'Voices from the Valley Park' project will truly transform this greenfield site*

into a shared space that will create a sense of ownership for all communities, a place that everyone values and benefits from."

Welcoming the project, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Alan Kelly TD, said: *"This project will build upon existing cross-community work with young people, through the provision of a safe, shared meeting place that can be easily accessed, without passing through territorial boundaries.*

"In doing so, it will act as a catalyst for meaningful peace and reconciliation that will break down social and economic barriers within the greater North Belfast area," he continued.

Ulster University Chancellor Launches 'Accounts of the Conflict'

PROJECT NEWS

Ulster University Chancellor Dr James Nesbitt recently launched a permanent digital archiving project that will preserve personal accounts of the conflict in Northern Ireland for future generations.

The 'Accounts of the Conflict Archive' has been developed by INCORE, the International Conflict Research Institute at Ulster University and is funded by the European Union's PEACE III Programme.

The archive provides a publicly accessible digital cross-section of audio, audio-visual and text formatted stories and testimonies of the

Northern Ireland conflict. The accounts have been sourced from previous and current story gathering projects.

The new resource was unveiled by the Chancellor as part of a special two-day international conference organised by INCORE where global academics and practitioners gathered to explore the role of digitally archiving stories for peace-building.

Speaking at the launch, the Chancellor heralded the project as one of the many approaches to dealing with the legacy of the past:

"Since the early years of the peace process many have engaged in and encouraged the sharing of their own personal experiences of the conflict in Northern Ireland. Ulster University has played an integral global role in peace-building and this archive is yet another significant achievement.

"For the first time, we now have a resource where such personal recollections are being preserved permanently in digital format so that future generations may better understand the complexity of the conflict here and continue on the path to a full and lasting peace," he added.

Pictured at the launch of the Accounts of the Conflict Archive are (left to right): Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, SEUPB; Professor Brandon Hamber, Director of the International Conflict Research Institute at Ulster University and Dr James Nesbitt, Ulster University Chancellor.



Speaking at the event, Pat Colgan Chief Executive of the SEUPB, said:

"This project, which we showcased at our annual PEACE Conference in 2014, reflects many of the core objectives of the EU's PEACE III Programme. It will give a voice to many of those affected by the conflict and create a secure archive which can be accessed by anyone interested in peace-building."

The INCORE Accounts of the Conflict Archive is available at www.ulster.ac.uk/accounts

Ministers celebrate delivery of 'Harnessing Natural Resources'

The successful delivery of an innovative €3m cross-border rural tourism and enterprise initiative was celebrated recently with a special event in Co. Cavan.

Supported under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, 'Harnessing Natural Resources' comprises 26 rural tourism and enterprise initiatives spanning the three counties of Cavan, Fermanagh and Leitrim.

Among the projects funded were three flagship initiatives: the development of a Rural Development Centre in Dowra, Co. Cavan; the upgrading of the Marble Arch Caves Visitor Centre in Co. Fermanagh and the redevelopment of the Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre at Drumshanbo in Co. Leitrim.

Commenting on the project, Alan Kelly TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government said:

"I welcome any initiative that will improve the quality of life in rural areas and facilitate the diversification of the rural economy whilst also building strong relationships across the border region. This project directly addresses some of the challenges faced by rural communities, including the need to increase economic activity,



Pictured at the closing event for 'Harnessing Natural Resources' are various project stakeholders including (front row, third from right), Cllr Shane P. O'Reilly, Chair, Cavan County Council and (back row, fifth from right), Pat Colgan, Chief Executive, SEUPB.

stimulate job creation and encourage rural tourism."

The Northern Ireland Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle O'Neill, welcomed the completion of the various projects and acknowledged the role of north-south co-operation in enhancing rural communities. The Minister said:

"Rural communities across this island encounter the same common issues and difficulties in their everyday lives. The 'Harnessing Natural Resources' Project is a perfect example of how central and local

government, along with statutory and community partners can work together to deliver strategic initiatives. It illustrates how the development and sustainability of our rural communities can prosper through north-south co-operation."

Congratulating the project on its success, Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB, said: *"This project has achieved a lot in terms of promoting greater levels of rural tourism and enterprise development, on a cross-border basis. In doing so, it has supported sustainable local employment and helped to protect the future of many rural communities across Cavan, Fermanagh and Leitrim."*

PROJECT NEWS...

NW Regional Science Park commended by European body

The new North West Regional Science Park, based at Fort George in Derry~Londonderry and the Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT), has been recognised for its commitment to cross-border relations by a prominent European body.

The project, which is supported by the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme, managed by the SEUPB, was commended by the Association of European Border Regions for its "special achievements" in cross border co-operation.

The 'Sail of Papenburg' awards recognise outstanding programmes, strategies, projects and actions within the scope of European integration. Commenting on the award, Norman Apley, CEO of the North West Regional Science Park said:

"This is a major accomplishment for a project which has only just been completed within the past year. We were up against some long-running and well-established programmes and so to receive this acknowledgement is testament to the vision and commitment of all involved in driving this project forward."

Paul Hannigan from Letterkenny Institute of Technology said:

"With European funding and the help and support of the North West Cross-Border Group and the SEUPB, we have a purpose built facility in which to nurture and accelerate the growth of promising early stage companies."

"The North West Regional Science Park project is already exceeding initial projected targets and no doubt this will increase further when the LYIT Co-Lab is finalised later this year", he continued.

In further good news for the facility, anchor tenant 8over8, a leader in contract risk management software for the global oil and gas industries, has been sold to the Aveva Group in a deal worth £27m.

The North West Regional Science Park provides 70,000 square foot of flexible workspace, housing specialists in software, telecoms, digital media and health & bioscience, among many others.

For more information on the facility, please visit www.nisp.co.uk/north-west/

'Intercultural Diaries' wins Community Safety Youth Award

An innovative project which has taken a group of Zimbabwean asylum seekers and West Belfast young people on a journey from fear to friendship has won the West Belfast Police



Pictured celebrating their award are participants from 'Intercultural Diaries'.

and Community Safety Youth Award in recognition of its achievements.

'Intercultural Diaries' brought together people from both sides of the Shankill/Falls interface with the aim of challenging perceptions, building relationships and fostering a sense of mutual understanding through the sharing of experiences.

Reflecting on one of the more poignant moments of the project and the response from the group, Claire Harris, Development Officer at Belfast Interface Project said:

"Stanley shared his story of being attacked in a racially motivated hate crime. It was a shocking insight into the often harsh reality of being perceived as 'an outsider' in Northern Ireland, something the young people could no longer consider him to be. For Stanley, it was an emotional moment of acceptance from teenagers he had once feared would treat him the same way as his attackers. 'You are family to me,' he told them, and they reciprocated the sentiment."

Real Life Interview: 'Teaching Divided Histories'

"Our generation has not seen the violence and conflict of the past with our own eyes, but we have been shaped by its legacy." So says one of the young people featured in 'In Peace Apart', a video from the EU PEACE III-funded 'Teaching Divided Histories' project, which has been viewed over 50,000 times online.

In the film, a Catholic girl and a Protestant girl in Derry~Londonderry swap school uniforms in an effort to explore divisions in Northern Ireland society. In addition to attracting extensive coverage in the media and online, the film has also been entered for the prestigious Guestbook Youth Peace Prize in Boston, which *"promotes the power of storytelling as a means of healing divisions."*

Over its 20 years of teaching conflict issues in schools, the Nerve Centre recognised that there were a number of very real barriers to engagement for teachers, students and school management when approaching sensitive and contentious matters around recent history. The issue of context and the opinions and experiences of students, parents and teachers themselves were seen as



The stars of 'In Peace Apart', Yvonne Weir, left, and Courtney Cooke.

being key when approaching how issues around the conflict were taught.

John Peto, Director of Education at the Nerve Centre explains:

"While there was a definite desire from educators on both sides of the border to 'make sense' of the conflict, the Nerve Centre team felt that teaching around the issue had been 'ghettoised' to the point where it took place solely within the Citizenship curriculum and that the learning value of the conflict had yet to be maximised on a cross-curricular basis."

The Nerve Centre's response was to create 'Teaching Divided Histories', an innovative three

year project which introduced new, curriculum-linked, digital approaches to the study of conflict into schools in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland.

By offering teachers free training and giving them the confidence, resources and transferable digital skills necessary to teach issues around the conflict in the classroom, the Nerve Centre in conjunction with the Council for the Curriculum Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) in Northern Ireland and the Curriculum Development Unit/City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDU/CDET) in Ireland were able to develop a programme of teaching which expanded the scope of conflict education to subjects including History, English, Art, Music, RE and



“Our generation has not seen the violence and conflict of the past with our own eyes, but we have been shaped by its legacy.”



Geography for students at Key Stages 3 and 4.

Harnessing the potential of moving image and digital media, ‘Teaching Divided Histories’ brought together post-primary teachers from across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland to develop and pilot innovative education programmes using film, digital imagery, animation, comic books and webcasting to enable young people to explore common experiences of conflict and peace building.

Partnership with the British Council brought a wider perspective to ‘Teaching Divided Histories’, bringing in project visits to countries such as South Africa, Sierra Leone, India and Lebanon (in addition to a new partnership with the Basque Country). As part of the project, students in these countries have been learning about the conflict in Northern Ireland as an introduction to addressing

issues around conflicts in their own countries.

John Peto elaborates further on the international dimension of the project:

“Part of the aim of ‘Teaching Divided Histories’ was to transfer knowledge and expertise between Northern Ireland and other conflict affected societies on how the delivery of education and learning can be developed to promote shared societies. By drawing on the networks of the British Council and establishing partnerships with schools internationally, we have been extremely successful in encouraging the digital sharing of creative responses to conflict education on an international basis.”

Looking to the future, the ‘Teaching Divided Histories’ team are keen to progress and sustain the international work of the project, while continuing to

offer support and teacher training through the Nerve Centre’s Creative Learning Centres.

Commenting on the success and legacy of ‘Teaching Divided Histories’, Project Manager Emma McDermott, Project Manager said:

“These digital and creative learning techniques will help us produce young people who are ready to compete on a global level, who are well informed and who are able to look objectively at information, and contentious material, and draw their own conclusions. We firmly believe that these modules can be used as a template for further resources to be designed for other societies who have emerged, or who are emerging, from conflict.”

For further information on ‘Teaching Divided Histories’, please visit <http://www.nervecentre.org/teachingdividedhistories>

REAL LIFE INTERVIEW...



'Crows on the Wire' App Launched

A new EU PEACE III funded app which addresses the human story behind the transition from the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), was launched recently at the Verbal Arts Centre.

The 'Crows on the Wire' app is both a dynamic, digital graphic novel and an innovative educational resource aimed at Key Stage Three and Four pupils in Northern Ireland. Based on the original script by Jonathan Burgess, the app was developed by the BAFTA award-winning digital creation company Black North and the Verbal Arts Centre team

and follows last year's hugely successful 'Crows on the Wire' theatrical performance, which toured across Northern Ireland.

Dr Mhairi Sutherland, Community Engagement Officer for 'Crows on the Wire', explained that the app is intended to function as an aid to the teaching of sensitive issues in the classroom:

"We hope the app will be downloaded by both Citizenship and History teachers as well as the general public and that it will function as a platform for challenging and stimulating debates by young people on topics such as cultural identity and sectarianism, conflict, exploring change, commemoration, equality and

the role of young people in civic society."

"This app aims to bring confidence to the tellers of 'untold' stories, and to stimulate discussion and debate around this story and the stories of others", she added.

Speaking at the launch of the app, Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB, said:

"This app is an excellent medium through which people, particularly young people, can engage with and learn more about the 'Crows on the Wire' project. As an educational and storytelling resource it will prove invaluable in highlighting an important chapter in our shared past."

Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB, tries out the 'Crows on the Wire' app at the project launch.





Pictured at the construction site for the 'City Centre Garden of Reflection' are (left to right): Padraig McKaigue, builder; Helen Quigley, Chief Executive Officer, Inner City Trust; Mr John Meehan, Chairman, Inner City Buildings Preservation Trust; The Mayor, Cllr Brenda Stevenson; Mr Pat Colgan, SEUPB; Mr Kevin Kelly, Architect and Mr Paul McNaught, DSD.

Welcoming the new app, Justice Minister David Ford said:

"This app paints a very personal picture through the eyes of those at the front line of the conflict, and offers an innovative educational resource about a difficult issue."

The 'Crows on the Wire' app is currently available for free download from the Apple Store and Google Play - just search for 'Crows on the Wire' - or via www.crowsonthewire.co

For further information on 'Crows on the Wire,' please contact mhairi.sutherland@theverbal.co for details.

Building work commences on 'City Centre Garden of Reflection'

Building work has commenced on the 'City Centre Garden of Reflection', located in the Pump Street Courtyard in Derry~Londonderry.

The £2.1 million project is funded through the European Union's PEACE III Programme, managed by the SEUPB and is a partnership between Inner City Trust, Derry City Council and DiverseCity Community Partnership.

At the centre of the project is the physical development of the Garden of Reflection, which will contain a series of artist-designed features including a

crystal healing wall, a water feature and commissioned art works. The garden design also incorporates a central courtyard with hard and soft landscaping, a small amphitheatre, a gallery space and a storytelling booth.

The capital development will be completed by late Spring 2015 and is complemented by a programme of events developed by the DiverseCity Community Partnership as well as the installation of lights at each of the seven gates in the city walls, which was completed by Derry City Council last year.

Helen Quigley, Chief Executive of Inner City Trust says she hopes the Garden of Reflection will transform this part of the city centre into a truly diverse

space for everyone, visitors and local people alike:

“The ‘City Centre Garden of Reflection’ has been developed as a major resource for community relations and cross-border relationship building. People can come and spend time reflecting privately or just enjoy the surroundings, and we hope that this city centre facility will become a popular meeting place and give people a good reason to explore this part of Derry.”

Access to the garden will be available from Pump Street, Bishop Street and London Street. The existing archway on Pump Street will be refurbished, the Bishop Street entrance will see the attractive Georgian doorway sympathetically refurbished and access from London Street will be via a gated entrance.

Highlighting the importance of the project Pat Colgan, Chief Executive of the SEUPB said:

“Upon completion this project will create a new shared space for the city of Derry, which will help bring people from diverse and different communities together. It will reinforce peace and stability at a local community level, thereby reinforcing the core objective of the European Union’s PEACE III Programme.”

For further information please visit www.gardenofreflection.org

Pre-Application Development Workshops (New Programmes 2014-2020)

From the 26 February to 26 March, the SEUPB will be holding a series of pre-application workshops ahead of the launch of the new PEACE and INTERREG Programmes in late spring 2015. These events have been specifically designed to support potential beneficiaries applying for funding before the Programmes are launched. They will not provide information on specific funding calls under the Programmes but will instead provide generic funding application information relevant to both the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.

The workshops will be split into two sessions over the course of one day focusing on issues associated with Project Development in the morning and Project Budgeting and Finance in the afternoon. The first workshop is applicable to individuals responsible for developing the project and/or involved in completing the application form. The second has been designed for those responsible for developing the project budget and/or managing project finance.

The events will take place across the eligible area of the Programmes to include the Border Region of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western

Scotland. The Scottish event will be streamed live via the SEUPB website and a filmed version will also be produced.

As space is limited a maximum of only two people can attend from any one organisation and all places will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis.

It is the SEUPB’s intention to co-ordinate another set of sector specific workshops after the Programmes have been successfully adopted. These will provide more specific advice and guidance on the project requirements within different themes of the new Programmes.

Full details on times, dates and locations will be posted on the SEUPB’s website and social media channels.

'RIVER Project' Revitalises River Towns

PROJECT NEWS...

The cross-border 'RIVER project' and 'Fresh Waters' campaign, which is aimed at promoting economic regeneration in a number of towns along the Lower Bann and River Erne, had its official closing event recently.

The project has benefitted from £1.29 million of funding from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme. It has seen the regeneration of Portglenone marina; Kilrea town and Drumaheglis marina on the Lower Bann; and Belturbet marina on the River Erne.

The associated 'Fresh Waters' brand and marketing campaign has enabled the

joint promotion of the two waterways as well as a campaign which has helped to boost tourism through the development of New Visitor Maps, and 'Walking Group Exchanges'. Locals and tourists alike have been encouraged to explore the undiscovered parts of the Lower Bann and River Erne through the 'Explore a New View' campaign.

Speaking about how the investment and project had helped his town, Damien Clarke of the Portglenone Enterprise Group said:

"The 'RIVER project' funding has transformed Portglenone marina and the recent 'Fresh

Waters' marketing campaign has promoted local businesses and given us a lot of food for thought. We have a lot of tourism development plans for the coming years and the 'Fresh Waters' campaign has provided the marketing foundation we need for these plans."

Michelle O'Neill, Minister for the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development congratulated those involved those involved in bringing the project to its fruition, saying:

"This project is a fine example of north-south co-operation in action and demonstrates that working together can deliver long-lasting and sustainable benefits for the rural economy."

Pictured at Drumaheglis Marina at an event marking the closure of the 'Fresh Waters marketing campaign'. RIVER project are (left to right): Ciaran Hanna, SEUPB; PJ McAvoy, Chair of North East Partnership; Joe Gillespie, Northern Regional Manager Waterways Ireland; Paul Donnelly, DARD Rural Development Division.



Congratulating the project on its success, the Chief Executive of the SEUPB Pat Colgan said, *"This cross-border project reflects many of the core aims and objectives of the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme. In promoting water-based tourism it is helping to maximise a local asset that will significantly increase the number of domestic and overseas tourists into the area, for many years to come."*

Border region creative industries receive a boost with 'Harnessing Creativity'

Thanks to tailored mentoring and funding from the 'Harnessing Creativity' project, fourteen Creative Labs concepts will be introduced to the marketplace through the Expanded Territories Exhibitions and events taking place in 2015.

'Harnessing Creativity' is being delivered by the Local Enterprise Office in Leitrim and received €799,880 in funding through the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme.

To date a total of 440 participants from counties Leitrim, Tyrone, Fermanagh and the wider region have received assistance from Harnessing Creativity, the largest creative enterprise ever undertaken in the North West. Participants have availed of masterclasses in new and emerging digital technologies, mentoring and business development training.

Project Co-ordinator Anna Marie O'Rourke explains: *"We operate in a region which has traditionally acted like a magnet for creative people. Our focus is on fostering collaboration between the creative sector and mainstream businesses to generate economic activity."*



Pictured is sculptor Kate Oram who has fused digital age technology with bronze age artistic techniques for her 'Harnessing Creativity' project.

The projects which have been earmarked for special product development funding and will be introduced to the marketplace in 2015 through 'Expanded Territories' exhibitions and seminars on both sides of the border will showcase a range of creative and innovative ideas, covering tourism, energy, fashion, arts, culture and events.

Selected projects include 'Big Day Out in Leitrim', which sees three environmentally aware tourism businesses help participants to forget their worries in beautiful surroundings, with a series of activities ranging from foraging to exploring the countryside on electric bikes.

Boyle-based sculptor Kate

Oram has fused digital age technology with bronze age artistic techniques for her project, which is pioneering the use of 3D printing as a tool for those learning the ancient art of sandcasting through online tutorials. Inspired by the discovery that a local hydroelectric station powered street lights in Manorhamilton 100 years ago, sculptor Seamus Dunbar aims to promote energy awareness by giving local individuals, companies and communities ownership of, and responsibility for, their own energy generation through his 'Local-E' project.

For further information on 'Harnessing Creativity', which runs until June 2015, please visit www.harnessingcreativity.eu

'Inch and Foyle Wildfowl Project' Official Launch

The official launch of the 'Inch and Foyle Wildfowl Project' took place recently at the Pump House car park at Inch Wildfowl Reserve.

This project is part funded by the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme managed by the SEUPB and has delivered two world-class visitor and outdoor recreation attractions at Inch Levels in Donegal and at Lough Foyle, north of Derry near Limavady.

Work completed to date at Inch includes an 8km looped pathway around Inch Lake, a new 16 space car park, timber

boardwalk, interpretative signage and some seating and benches. At the Foyle project location bird watching screens have been installed along with interpretative signs. To complete the project, a foot bridge will be built over the Burnfoot River at Ballymacran, Limavady early in 2015. The project has also delivered a comprehensive cross-border education programme involving local schools.

Evaluation Consultant Alan Lauder presented the findings from the project evaluation to date at the workshop which followed the launch. With visitor numbers reaching

over 60,000 visits per year to the Inch site it was agreed that an action plan should be developed to look at all aspects of the preservation of the sites including maintenance issues, the next steps and possible funding streams.

For further information please visit www.inchandfoyle.com or contact Francis Conaghan, Project Officer at fconaghan@donegalcoco.ie

Pictured speaking at the official launch of the 'Inch and Foyle Wildfowl Project' is Chairman of NW Region Cross Border Group, Councillor Paul Canning.

PROJECT NEWS...



'Medi@tic' boosts digital media sector

The digital media sector in the North West has been given a boost by the work of 'Medi@tic', an INTERREG IVC funded three year project which aimed to enhance business creation in the audiovisual sector and to support media companies in adapting to new technologies, new business opportunities and formats.

Derry City Council together with Ernact EEIG in Donegal and Cork Institute of Technology joined partners in Spain, Latvia, Italy, Poland, Malta and Norway in order to share information and experience between partner regions and cities which have a strong focus and specialisation in the multimedia, ICT and digital sectors. Each partner location learned from the other in order to use that experience to shape their future projects and strategy for their sectors.

Commenting on the success of the project, Aidin McCarter, Project Manager for 'Medi@tic' said:

"The overall project has been an excellent learning experience for Derry City Council. The insight gained by sharing best practice with the partners has been invaluable in shaping



the future direction of project partners in the sector."

"In particular the work that San Sebastian in Spain is doing to stimulate the sector and the intervention measures they have taken will help us shape our own thinking for the future. We are already talking to San Sebastian and other project partners about working together on future collaborations. The feedback from other partners in terms of what they learned from our experience has been excellent and this has served as a useful endorsement of our own achievements," she continued.

One highlight of the project was a visit to the Alvernia Studios, one of the most modern film studios in Europe, which produces international features

for theatrical release, video games, music projects and commercials.

Other seminars and best practice visits were held in Genoa, Malta, Seville, Krakow and Vidzeme. Cork CIT led on the communications element of the project and developed an online observatory to collect the work produced as part of the project and other information relevant to the sector - this can be accessed via www.mediaticobservatory.eu

Interregional and Transnational Programmes

Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme Approved

The European Commission formally approved the Co-operation Programme for the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014-2020 in December 2014. The programme is among the first INTERREG programmes to be approved by the Commission.

The NPA Programme will allocate approximately €56m to projects through bi-annual calls for applications with the aim of expanding the regions' horizons, building on concrete outcomes and enabling the programme area to be a first class region to live, study, work, visit and invest.

The Second Call under the programme opened on 5th January and will close on 10th April 2015. In addition to the second call for main project applications, a Call for Preparatory Project Applications has opened on a rolling basis. For further information and to download the application form and associated documentation please visit <http://www.northernperiphery.eu/en/news/show/&tid=316>

North West Europe Programme

The North West Europe Co-operation Programme has been submitted to the EU



Commission for approval. The programme will focus on three priority areas: Innovation, Low Carbon and Resource/Materials Efficiency. There will be a total budget of €396m European Regional Development Fund available under the new programme with an intervention rate of 60%. The first Call for Applications is expected to open in April 2015. The programme is in the process of organising Project Development Workshops which will be held in March 2015. For further information and updates, please visit <https://www.nweurope.eu/>

INTERREG EUROPE

The INTERREG EUROPE (VC) Programme was launched in Bologna, Italy in December 2014. The event was attended by 800 people representing a range of organisations across

Europe. The programme budget for 2014-2020 will be €359m and it will focus research and innovation, competitiveness of SMEs, low-carbon economy, the environment and resource efficiency.

As part of the preparation ahead of the First Call for Applications, which is expected to open in Spring 2015, project partner and project idea databases have been developed. You can introduce your organisation and/or project idea to others in Europe by creating an account with information about yourself and your interests. To register, please visit <http://bit.ly/1AibrSx>

PROJECT NEWS...

Programme Summaries and SEUPB Contacts

PEACE III

The €333 million PEACE III Programme 2007-2013 is a distinctive European Union Structural Funds Programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation. Building upon lessons and good practice gained from previous PEACE Programmes, it specifically focuses on two Priorities:

- Reconciling Communities and
- Contributing to a Shared Society.

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

For further information on the PEACE III Programme contact: Joint Technical Secretariat Omagh, Tel: +44 (0) 28 8225 5750 E: omagh@seupb.eu or Belfast, Tel: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660 E: info@seupb.eu

The Consortium Pobal Tel: +353 (0)1 5117500 E: enquiries@pobal.ie

INTERREG IVA

The €256 million INTERREG IVA Programme 2007-2013 aims to support strategic cross-border territorial co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region.

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).

The Programme's two key priorities are:

- Co-operation for a more prosperous cross-border region, and
- Co-operation for a sustainable cross-border region.

For further information on the INTERREG IVA Programme contact: Joint Technical Secretariat, Monaghan. Tel: + 353 (0)47 77003 E: monaghan@seupb.eu

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@scotent.co.uk

INTERREG IVB Transnational Programmes

The SEUPB has a role in promoting North/South participation in the relevant INTERREG IVB Transnational Programmes.

These programmes are:

- **The Northern Periphery Programme.** This €45.2 million 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 co-operation with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Norway. SEUPB is the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland.
- **The North West Europe Programme.** This €355 million 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

This €104 million 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 IVC Inter-regional Programme

The €302 million INTERREG IVC 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 27 EU states, plus Norway and Switzerland.

SEUPB works in an advisory and signposting role for North/South participation in this programme.

For further information on IVB and IVC Programmes, contact: Declan McGarrigle at the SEUPB Belfast office: Tel: + 44 (0) 28 9026 6678 E: declan.mcgarrigle@seupb.eu

Special EU Programmes Body
info@seupb.eu
www.seupb.eu

Belfast
7th Floor,
The Clarence West Building
2 Clarence Street West
Belfast BT2 7GP
Northern Ireland
T: +44 (0) 28 9026 6660

Monaghan
M:Tek II Building
Armagh Road
Monaghan
Ireland
T: +353 (0) 477 7003

Omagh
EU House
11 Kevlin Road
Omagh BT78 1LB
Northern Ireland
+44 (0) 28 8225 5750