

YOUR EU

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



**Official Launch of new PEACE IV
and INTERREG VA Programmes**





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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 Technical 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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Chief Executive's Foreword

This is an exciting time for the SEUPB as we open funding calls for the new €283m INTERREG VA Programme and the €270m PEACE IV Programme.

By the time this edition is published all of the funding calls under the INTERREG VA Programme will have been opened. We have already received applications for a number of the Programme's objectives, which are currently under review using our new two stage assessment process.

A large number of funding calls have been opened under PEACE IV, representing about half of the total Programme. Project assessment for both of the Programmes is progressing and we will be in a position to make funding awards towards the end of the year.

Under INTERREG VA this support will create 514 years worth of PhD level research to support cross-border enterprise development and the provision of enhanced health and social care for over 50,000 people living on both sides of the border.

In order to help people access support we have co-ordinated a series of funding call workshops across the region. Interest and attendance at these events has been high and we anticipate that they will result in the submission of good quality and eligible applications.

The last few months have also seen the official launch of a number of capital build projects under the 'shared space' priority of the PEACE III Programme. All of these projects have been designed to help bring divided communities together, through the creation of a new shared space that can be used safely and comfortably by everyone.

Recently opened shared spaced initiatives include the Earls project in Dungannon, the Termon project based on the border of Donegal and Fermanagh, the Siege Museum in Londonderry and the Girdwood Community Hub in North Belfast.

All of these facilities have been completed to a very high standard and are now open for use by the public. Collectively they will act as a legacy for the PEACE III Programme and will play a valuable role in the promotion of peace and stability for many years to come.

Under the INTERREG IVA Programme, I was recently invited to take part in a special event to mark the completion of the Drogheda Viaduct refurbishment. This project will have a significant and positive impact on cross-border enterprise and tourism development for many years to come.

I was also pleased to hear that another INTERREG IVA funded project, Smart Eco Hub was



nominated for a Community and Council Award. This is a significant achievement and one which recognises the innovation in energy efficiency that was the core objective of the project.

We will continue to play an active signposting and facilitation role in the new transnational and interregional programmes for 2014-2020.

As part of this work we recently held an information seminar in partnership with the Interreg Europe Programme on future funding policy, at the Europa Hotel.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of Your EU and I would sincerely welcome any feedback that you may have as to its content.

Gina McIntyre
Chief Executive, SEUPB

Over €0.5 billion worth of EU funding is now available to the region

The new PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes for 2014-2020 were officially launched at a special event held in Skainos, East Belfast.

Three Ministers representing each of the eligible areas of the Programmes (Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland) were in attendance, alongside European Commission representative Deša Srsen.

Over 200 people attended the event which looked back over the success of the previous Programmes and the impact that they have made on the lives of tens of thousands of people.

Speaking at the event, the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure and Investment Keith Brown, said: *"I welcome this investment and commitment to strengthening our cross-border partnerships and look forward to seeing people and communities in Western Scotland sharing in the benefits being delivered to all three regions."*

"Funding such as this also demonstrates quite clearly how communities in Scotland gain from being an active part of the European Union. Western Scotland was incorporated into the previous round of this Programme in 2007 and we have already seen good results."



Local children involved in the PEACE III funded Beyond Skin project perform a native Ugandan dance at the official launch of the new Programmes for 2014-2020.

Young participants in the PEACE III funded 'Beyond Skin' anti-racism project gave a short performance of native Ugandan dancing and singing to mark the end of the event.

Welcoming the new Programmes Brendan Howlin TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland, said: *"I am delighted that the Irish Government was able to secure the EU funding that forms the basis for the new PEACE Programme, which will build on the success of previous Programmes."*

Talking about his hopes for the new Programmes, the previous Finance Minister Mervyn Storey, said: *"PEACE IV and INTERREG VA*

will build on the achievements of the previous programmes by contributing further to the positive changes and improvements made to the lives of local people.

"The new streamlined application process is a welcome development that will reduce the administrative burden when applying for funding and in the delivery of the Programmes."

Drogheda viaduct launch keeps cross-border rail journeys on track

The official launch of the newly refurbished Drogheda Viaduct took place recently at the D Hotel in Drogheda.

In receipt of €6.1 million of funding under INTERREG IVA the project will ensure that existing journey times on the Dublin-Belfast railway line are maintained.

A significant refurbishment, the project involved the installation of a new drainage system to capture and remove rainwater, steelwork repairs to replace sections of the bridge's steel infrastructure and the re-laying of track work over the viaduct itself.

Match-funding for the project was supplied by the Department for Regional Development (DRD) in Northern Ireland and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) in Ireland.

Welcoming the completion of the project Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport Paschal Donohoe TD said: *"The rail line connecting Dublin and Belfast provides a very important cross-border transport link."*

"The refurbishment of the Drogheda Viaduct on the line will help ensure that we continue to enjoy safe, efficient and punctual rail services along this strategic transport corridor, which plays a key role in supporting



Pictured (l-r) at the event are Paschal Donohoe TD, Michelle McIlveen MLA and Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB.

the development of trade and tourism between the two biggest cities on the island."

Designed by Irish civil engineer Sir John MacNeill construction of the viaduct was originally completed in 1885 and at the time was considered to be one of the wonders of the age.

The old paintwork covering the viaduct has now been removed and replaced with a more suitable and modern protective paint system which will help to safeguard the stonework over many years.

Congratulating Irish rail on the refurbishment work Northern

Ireland's Minister for Regional Development Michelle McIlveen, said: *"I congratulate everyone involved in the successful completion of the Viaduct refurbishment project. This is a significant achievement which will ensure that our future plans for improved and modernised cross-border services between Belfast and Dublin are realised."*

Cross-border Termon project is unveiled

A new shared space capital build project which has helped to transform the twin villages of Pettigo in Donegal and Tullyhommon in Fermanagh, has recently been unveiled.

Using the river Termon as a focus for the regeneration work the project was led by Donegal County Council in partnership with Fermanagh District Council and ADOPT (the Association for the Development and Tullyhommon).

The main construction work of the project involved the development of the Termon Complex, a replacement for the old community hall.

The Termon Complex is a multi-purpose cross-community centre, complete with indoor sports facilities, black box theatre, gym and training rooms as well as Welcome Centre providing information on the history of the area.

Adjacent to the Termon Complex, in landscaped grounds, is a children's play-park and floodlit AstroTurf games area.

Another important part of the development, is the 'Little Smarties' Pre-school childcare facility which includes, in addition to day-care facilities, a sensory room and outdoor play-space.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by the Department for Social Development in Northern



Pictured (l-r) are Joe McHugh TD, Gina McIntyre CEO of the SEUPB, Martin Eves Chairman of ADOPT and First Minister Arlene Foster MLA along with two local schoolchildren at the launch of the project.

Ireland and the Department for the Environment, Community and Local Government in Ireland.

Speaking at the official launch of the project Irish Minister of State Joe McHugh TD, said: *"I am delighted to be invited here today to celebrate in the successful conclusion of this project. I am very impressed by the new facilities that have been created and the transformative impact that the project has had on both villages. In creating a new shared, safe space it will encourage greater levels of peace and reconciliation long into the future."*

The project also involved the construction of a pedestrian footbridge across the River Termon, symbolically uniting both villages.

The Methodist Hall in Tullyhommon was refurbished and extended for use in a number of cross-community activities.

As part of an environmental improvement scheme, under the project, commercial and domestic properties have also been repainted to improve the overall appearance of the village.

Welcoming the completion of the project the Minister for Social Development, Mervyn Storey said: *"The villages of Tullyhommon and Pettigo have demonstrated what can be achieved through the ambition and determination of communities coming together and working for a common goal."*

Earls project is launched

The £7 million EU PEACE III-funded Earls project in Dungannon was officially launched in March.

The project has created a new events space at the Hill of the O'Neill, a cross-community walking trail which cuts through the town and new office space at Railway Park for use by a number of local community organisations.

The office space within the newly named 'Junction building' is now home to South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (STEP), Willowbank Resource Centre and Inspire Mental Health (formerly Beechview Beacon Day Support).

The event space includes state-of-the-art conference facilities and a viewing tower on the historic Hill of the O'Neill.

The 6.9km walking trail links key recreational spaces across the town and has been designed to encourage greater levels of positive cross-community contact.

The Earls project was delivered by Mid Ulster District Council alongside a consortium of local partners led by STEP.

Speaking at the official launch event for the project Bernadette McAliskey, CEO of STEP, said: "We want the building to become central to community activity in the Dungannon and Mid Ulster area. We want all



Pictured (l-r) are Councillor Kim Ashton, Councillor Linda Dillon, Mark Kelso Director of Public Health and Infrastructure with Mid-Ulster District Council, Gina McIntyre CEO of the SEUPB and Bernadette McAliskey, Chief Executive of STEP Northern Ireland.

individuals and groups to feel that this building belongs to them and encourage them to contribute to its success."

Welcoming guests to the official launch of the project Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Linda Dillon said: "The Hill of the O'Neill was a hugely important stronghold for centuries and is a significant part of our heritage and a key visitor attraction in Mid Ulster.

"This funding has allowed the Hill to be enhanced yet further, opening up its potential and providing a dedicated events space, which is already in demand as a location. Together with the addition of the

pathway and the development of the new community building, this £7m investment has made a substantial difference to the town and my thanks go to all those who have contributed to the creation of such great facilities."

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.

Real Life Interview



Pictured (l-r) Manus Maguire from the Clifton Community Regeneration Forum is joined by Ian McLaughlin from the Lower Shankill Community Association at the recently opened Girdwood Community Hub.

‘Opening up a new dialogue – the Girdwood Community Hub’

A derelict space at the heart of an interface area in North Belfast has been completely transformed thanks to EU PEACE III funding.

Previously the location of a demilitarised army barracks the

site had, for many years, acted as the back-drop for sectarian-based clashes between young people living within the local area.

The Girdwood project was created to help tackle these problems and turn the site from a focus of division into one which would encourage local communities to come together peacefully.

Your EU spoke to two of the local community representatives behind the project who worked closely with Belfast City Council to turn the Girdwood Community hub into a reality.

Manus Maguire works for the Clifton Community Regenerative Forum. He was heavily involved in a lot of the public consultation work that started

back in 2009, when the project was first being conceived.

“Ensuring meaningful community buy-in was one of the first hurdles to be overcome at the start of the project. We worked very closely with Belfast City Council to ensure that local residents, from both sides of the community, knew what was going on and were able to give their opinion on what they wanted Girdwood to be,” said Manus.

Various methods were used to capture the views of local people and ensure that their voices were heard. Manus and his team went door-to-door with information provided by the Council to help stimulate interest in the project and ensure it would meet the needs of the community.

“During the initial consultation period we helped the Council to engage directly with local people. This was essential if we were to ensure that the project was a success. We even co-ordinated a family fun day to get both sides of the community together in one place where they could share their views on what Girdwood should deliver.”

“This type of community-led consultation continued throughout every stage of the project and involved a number of different partners, culminating in the creation

of the Girdwood Community Forum. It also allowed the local community to actively engage with a number of statutory agencies that they hadn't been able to do so before,” continued Manus.

Ian McLaughlin, a project manager with the Lower Shankill Community Association, was also heavily involved in the development of the project. He sees it as much more than a community and sports facility.

“Girdwood is a really good example of a peace and reconciliation project that works. It has created a shared safe space where people from different backgrounds can meet, relax and learn from each other. The facility is used in equal measure by people from a Protestant/Unionist and Catholic/Nationalist background. It takes nothing away from either community but gives so much to both of them,” said Ian.

A large part of the Girdwood Community Hub is leased by Belfast Metropolitan College which offers a range of different training and education courses for young people.

The Hub also has a dedicated space for young people, including a drop-in service and other youth development facilities. Ian believes that it is already making a huge impact on the lives of local young people.

“A lot of the government support and investment that has been provided throughout the peace process has been geared towards adults. Even though most of our young people today would have been too young to actually experience the conflict at first-hand, they have still been seriously affected by it.”

“Girdwood provides them with much needed support and also an opportunity to mix with and create friendships with young people from the ‘other’ community. In doing so they are being given the opportunity to challenge their conceptions of what a ‘Catholic’ or ‘Protestant’ person is and bring this fresh, more balanced perspective, home to their families,” continued Ian.

Looking forward both Ian and Manus are keen that the centre is managed by the local people, on a cross-community basis. They see this as the next logical step in the development of Girdwood to ensure that it has a positive and transformative impact long into the future.

INTERREG VA Programme Update

Following the opening of the first calls for the new INTERREG VA Programme last year, a number of applications have been submitted for assessment by the SEUPB.

Three applications were received under the first Research and Innovation (R&I) call, with two proceeding on to the second assessment stage. This call will result in a significant increase in the percentage of SME'S and micro-businesses across the region which are involved in R&I involving cross-border collaboration.

A total of 21 applications were received under the health funding call. Of these 14 have successfully moved on to the second stage of assessment. The call 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.

One application was received under the transitional waters element of the environment call of INTERREG VA. This application will now move on to stage two of the assessment process.

A total of 12 applications were received for the remainder of the Environment call. Four were received for Habitats and Species, six in support of the marine environment and two dealing specifically with cross-border river basins. These applications are currently under assessment within stage one.

Six applications in total were received for the sustainable transport objective of the INTERREG VA Programme. Two of these applications were for a new multi-modal transport hub and four for cross-border greenways. All of the applications are under assessment for stage one.

The final funding call under the R&I theme of the Programme was opened on **21st March** and closed on **6th May**.

Funding call workshops have been held for all of the relevant funding calls. These events were designed to highlight the unique results and objectives of each call in order to assist potential beneficiaries with their applications.

Attendance at all of the events was high, reflecting the significant level of interest in the new INTERREG VA Programme.



Keith Moran, Managing Director with SL Controls, based in Sligo which received business development support from the previous INTERREG IVA Programme.

Grass roots level funding call opened under PEACE IV

A funding call was issued at the start of March, under PEACE IV, to local authorities across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

The call relates to the creation of locally-focused PEACE Action Plans to be delivered by the local authorities across the region.

For this new programming period the available funding will be split over three distinct thematic areas.

These areas include support for; children and young people; the creation of new shared spaces and services; and the promotion of positive relations between different communities.

As part of the call the local authorities are currently engaged in an extensive public consultation exercise to help them identify key areas of need within their jurisdictions.

Given the success of the local authority delivery model under the previous PEACE Programme, it was decided that it be used again to ensure that funding reaches down to a grass-roots level under PEACE IV.

All of the local authorities will be working in partnership with private sector providers, trade unions, local government elected representatives



Children from Ballymena Polish Saturday school perform at a special event to mark the end of the North East Partnership's PEACE Action Plan.

and the voluntary and community sector in the delivery of their Action Plans.

These partnerships will result in a greater capacity for the local authorities to address reconciliation, cultural diversity, conflict transformation and equality – all key themes within the PEACE IV Programme.

The financial allocation available to the local authorities is approximately €81.17 million, representing just under a third of the total value of the Programme.

The allocations for both Northern Ireland and the Border Region are based on per capita (Census) and deprivation (NI Multiple Deprivation

Measure and Trutz Haase Deprivation Index). This means that each local authority area has its own indicative budget that can be applied for.

The funding provided under the Programme will enable local authorities to make a meaningful change in the development of positive cross-community relationship building.

Targets include an increase in the percentage of 16 year olds who think that relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago.

As well as a reduction in the percentage of people who would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion.

Funding Call for Victims is opened

The SEUPB opened a closed call on the 3rd March aimed specifically at addressing the needs of victims and survivors of the conflict.

The Good Friday Agreement / Belfast Agreement recognises the need to acknowledge the suffering of Victims and Survivors and to provide services that are supportive and sensitive with a role for statutory and community-based organisations.

Using the statutory definition of victims and survivors as detailed

HRH Visit to REACH project

The EU PEACE III-funded REACH (Reaching out through Education and Cultural Heritage) project hosted a visit from His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales on a recent trip to the region.

During his tour of the newly refurbished museum in Sloan's House Loughall, The Prince was able to learn more about the early development of Orangeism and the outreach activity undertaken by the Orange Order through the project.

REACH involved the refurbishment of Sloan's House and Schomberg House in East Belfast. Both facilities are being used on a cross-community basis to encourage greater levels of

in the 'The Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) order 2006' the call has a total value of €17.6 million. It will be delivered by the Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) who will co-ordinate the delivery of all outputs under the call on a cross-border basis.

An ambitious target of 17,650 victims and survivors, or members of their families, has been set for the call.

They will benefit from a range of different interventions including

advocacy support in relation to historical processes and enquiries, a resilience programme to address mental health issues and assessment support to address other, more specific needs of victims and survivors.

For more information on the call please go to www.seupb.eu



HRH The Prince of Wales on a recent visit to the REACH project in Loughall.

mutual respect and understanding of the different types of culture which exist within our society.

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.

Regional Level funding call is opened

€16.4 million worth of EU funding will be made available to promote greater levels of peace and reconciliation between divided communities across Northern Ireland and Border Region of Ireland.

A core strand of the new PEACE IV Programme, the funding aims to promote positive relations where people from all sides of the community can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

Over the next five years it will fund a number of initiatives that will encourage greater levels of community cohesion and contact, on a cross-border basis.

The call aims to increase the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago from 45% in 2013 to 52% by 2023.

It also aims to increase the percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years' time from 40% in 2013 to 48% by 2023.

These results will be collected by the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey.



Judith Getty, a youth worker for the 'Rural Enabler' project, a peace and reconciliation initiative funded under the PEACE III Programme.

The funding call will support up to 20 different regional projects that will result in meaningful and sustained contact between persons from different communities.

Projects supported under the call will pay particular attention to minority groups and other groups who have traditionally been marginalised by society.

The call will support groups particularly impacted by the legacy of the conflict such as victims and survivors and deprived communities. It will also target young and older people, women, the faith community, those suffering from physical or

mental disability as a result of the conflict, ex-prisoners, displaced persons and former members of the security forces.

Match-funding for this element of the PEACE IV Programme has been provided by the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in Ireland.

Applications to the call must be submitted to the SEUPB by Thursday **29th September 2016**.

Full details of the funding call can be found at www.seupb.eu

Shared Education Call Opens

€35.3 million worth of EU funding has been made available to support shared education across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

A core strand of the new PEACE IV Programme, the funding aims to increase the percentage of schools involved in shared education initiatives from 76% in 2013 to 88% by 2023.

Over the next five years it will fund a number of initiatives that will encourage the sustained and positive interaction of children from different backgrounds through their participation in curriculum-based classes.

Welcoming the funding call Gina McIntyre Chief Executive of the SEUPB, which manages the PEACE IV Programme, said: *“The current educational structures across the region have resulted in a large proportion of our young people being educated solely with children of a similar background. This has limited their opportunity to meet, learn and forge positive relationships with other children from different parts of the community.*

“In recognition of this, a significant part of the new PEACE IV Programme has been designed to help ensure that sharing in education becomes a



The objective aims to support up to 350 schools in shared education initiatives.

central part of every child's education experience.”

The funding call has an ambitious set of targets and aims to support the involvement of up to 350 schools in shared education by 2023.

It also aims to train 2,100 teachers to help lead shared education initiatives which will result in up to 144,000 years' worth of shared education classrooms by 2023.

Support will be provided to pre-school education; primary schools; post-primary schools; and partnerships between schools and youth services.

The call will also focus on schools with no or limited previous

experience of providing shared educational opportunities for children.

Match-funding for the shared education element of the PEACE IV Programme has been provided by the Department of Education in Northern Ireland and the Department of Education and Skills in Ireland.

Full details of the funding call can be **found at www.seupb.eu**

Siege Museum is opened to the public

The Trustees of the Apprentice Boys of Derry recently unveiled a new EU PEACE III-funded interpretative centre, the ‘Siege Museum’, and newly refurbished Memorial Hall on Society Street, Londonderry.

The project has been designed to enhance the quality and breadth of all cross-community outreach activity undertaken by the Apprentice Boys of Derry.

Welcoming the completion of the project, Chairman of the Siege Museum Management Committee William Moore, said: *“I am delighted with the new facility and the opportunity to showcase the history of the Siege of Londonderry and the culture and traditions of the Association.”*

The newly built 5,000 sq ft visitors centre contains a number of important historical artefacts including a sword belonging to Adam Murray of Siege fame, cannon balls, musket shot and medals commemorating the reformation of the Apprentice Boys in 1814.

Derry and Strabane District Council was the lead partner for the delivery of the project.

The facility will promote a greater understanding of the events which led up to the Siege and also provide



Pictured with Mervyn Storey MLA, and Lord Morrow MLA are (l-r) William Moore, Chairman of the Siege Museum Management Committee, Jim Brownlee Governor of the Apprentice Boys of Derry and Ivan Taylor, Chairman of the Trustees of Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall at the official launch of the EU PEACE III funded Siege museum.

a comprehensive insight into the history and traditions of the Apprentice Boys of Derry.

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.

Recognising the importance of the project, Minister Alan Kelly T.D. of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government said: *“This project is to be greatly welcomed as an opportunity to educate and highlight the cultural importance of the Siege of 1689. I am confident it will be used and enjoyed by all sections of the community”.*

Over the next few years the project will deliver upon an ambitious set of visitor targets to include members from both the Protestant and Catholic community, on both sides of the border.

A dedicated outreach programme, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is being rolled out to help meet these targets, supported by the development of a unique set of educational resources highlighting the historical importance of the Siege and its significance within Protestant culture.

For more information on the museum go to <http://apprenticeboysofderry.org/home>

Girdwood Community Hub Officially Opens

A £11.7m state-of-the-art EU-funded community and leisure hub at Girdwood Park was officially unveiled recently during 'Community Week'.

Local residents to the area joined community and political representatives at the Girdwood Community Hub for a first look at the new shared space, which brings together a range of public services under one roof.

With a total value of £11.7 million, the hub is the first development on the former Girdwood Barracks site. Funding was provided by the EU's PEACE III Programme, Belfast City Council and the Department for Social Development.

Speaking at the opening, the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Arder Carson, said: *"The opening of Girdwood Community Hub is a significant stepping stone in the revitalisation of north Belfast, and the first major outcome of Belfast City Council's ambitious plans to transform and modernise leisure provision right across our city."*

"From its inception, the idea of a shared, welcoming space which everyone can enjoy has been firmly supported by communities and politicians. Their input has been crucial in creating a modern, vibrant building where people can access



Exterior shot of the completed facility.

much-needed leisure and learning facilities and community services. We now want as many people as possible to call in over the next week to experience the new opportunities on their doorstep, and find out how the hub can benefit them."

Speaking at the event Northern Ireland's Finance Minister Mervyn Storey MLA said: *"Girdwood Community Hub is an excellent example of a progressive and inclusive project funded by the PEACE III Programme."*

"The transformation of this underdeveloped former military barracks site has delivered a high quality shared space for the local community, a key cornerstone of the PEACE III Programme. The plans for this site will see further

developments, including sporting activities, 66 new social housing units and landscaping to enhance the overall space."

Belfast Metropolitan College will deliver a range of courses from five dedicated classrooms in the hub. Classes in this academic year include the Prince's Trust Team Programme and Essential Skills in numeracy, literacy, ICT and entry level ICT, and the college is already working with community organisations to plan additional courses.

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

Fanad House Lighthouse Launch

Fanad Head lighthouse in County Donegal has just opened as an exciting new tourist attraction, thanks to funding provided by the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme.

Positioned at the northern tip of the spectacular Fanad Head peninsula the structure stands 22m tall and has been voted one of the most beautiful lighthouses in the world.

It was first established nearly 200 years ago to protect seafarers and with a range of 18 nautical miles, remains an important aid to navigation for mariners.

The transformation of Fanad Head lighthouse into a new tourist destination forms part of the Great Lighthouses of Ireland project supported by INTERREG IVA.

Speaking at the official opening of the new facility, Yvonne Shields, Chief Executive of Irish Lights, said: *"Irish Lights has a long and rich history and connection to the coast and its communities. We have and continue to provide an important navigation service around the coast of Ireland and Fanad Lighthouse plays an important part in this for the North West Coast."*

"A huge partnership of public and private sector partners came together and worked as a team to



Fanad Head Lighthouse

invest in and develop this lighthouse as a fabulous visitor's experience which will help preserve our rich maritime heritage on the wild Atlantic way."

The Great Lighthouses of Ireland project involves the refurbishment of 12 different lighthouses into new tourist attractions across Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Each of the lighthouses offer a range of services from accommodation to visitor centres and specialised guided tours.

Self-catering accommodation is available in former lightkeepers' dwellings at sites in Donegal and Northern Ireland (including Blackhead, St. John's Point in County Donegal and County Down along with Fanad Head).

Visitor centre facilities are also available at Rathlin West Light Seabird Centre.

For more information on the project go to www.greatlighthouses.com

European Funding will put Belfast in forefront of Bike commuter revolution

Cycling and walking charity, Sustrans has won a major grant through Interreg North-West Europe to take forward a project worth a total of €720,000 focusing on the Comber Greenway to make cycling a more attractive option for commuters.

The CHIPS project (Cycle Highways for smarter People Transport and Spatial Planning) will see Belfast collaborate with leading cycling nations – the Netherlands and Belgium, as well as Transport for London, Germany and the Republic of Ireland over the next three years.

The €4.4m programme aims to tackle high levels of air pollution caused by car traffic in North-West Europe by building better infrastructure for cyclists and encouraging bicycle commuting.

The CHIPS' partners forecast a 150 to 300% increase in the number of cyclists as a result of the project.

Each partner is considering a specific aspect of cycling highway development. There are six programmes in the scheme across the various countries which will share their learning during the three years and beyond through the establishment of Cycle Highway Academies.

The Sustrans project will involve coordinating a survey across the



Pictured are Gina McIntyre CEO at the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and Sustrans Northern Ireland Director, Gordon Clarke.

nine partners to identify the barriers preventing people commuting by bike. In Belfast this survey will focus on people using the Comber Greenway for their commute. Programmes which Sustrans develop in Belfast will be shared and implemented by partners across Europe.

An 'Active Travel hub' will be established at the Hollywood Arches in east Belfast to provide a public base for the project. There will also be investment in smart cycle storage units utilising modern technology such as swipe cards for security; bike service points and a pilot programme developing the potential of e-bikes for those who have longer distance commutes or live in hillier areas.

Sustrans Northern Ireland Director, Gordon Clarke said the investment is exciting news for Belfast and cycling.

"We are delighted to have won this major investment for cycling in Northern Ireland," he said.

"There was a lot of competition for this European funding but our consortium of partners from across North-West Europe made our application hard to refuse.

Congratulating the project, Gina McIntyre CEO at the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), said: *"We were delighted to support Sustrans in their successful bid for funding from the EU Programme 'North-West Europe'. The promotion of more sustainable transport initiatives, such as cycling, is essential in contributing to a reduction in carbon emissions, and will complement the transport initiatives planned for the region."*

INTERREG VB/C Programmes - Update

In partnership with the Interreg Europe Programme the SEUPB held an Information Seminar at the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

The Interreg Europe Programme helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy.

By creating an environment and opportunity for sharing solutions, the Programme aims to ensure that government investment, innovation and implementation efforts all lead to integrated and sustainable impacts for local people.

The second call for applications under the Programme opened on the 5 April and closed on the 13 May. Further calls will open throughout 2017.

More information on the Programme is available at www.interregeurope.eu

The Atlantic Area Programme opened its first call for applications on the **26th April 2016**. Applicants were invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) by the **31st May 2016**. The programme operates a two stage application process – further information can be found on the new Programme website:

<http://www.atlanticarea.eu/>



Attendees at the Interreg Europe Information Seminar in Belfast.

The Third Call under the North West Europe Programme was also open during April and May, a Fourth Call will open later in 2016 – further information can be found on the Programme website:

<http://www.nweurope.eu/>

Since the commencement of the Programmes in 2014, a total of 19 projects have been approved

with at least one Northern Ireland Partner involved, 12 of these projects involve Northern Irish and Irish partners working collaboratively to address common problems and over €4m (ERDF) has been allocated to Northern Irish partners to complete activity under the Programmes.

Programme Summaries and SEUPB Contacts

PEACE IV

The €269m 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 is currently in draft form and will be subject to further negotiation and revision before being submitted to the European Commission.

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 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

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 Programme contact:

Joint Technical 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 in promoting North/South participation in the relevant INTERREG VB Transnational 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 €396 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:

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