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

AUTUMN 2010

AN UPDATE ON EUROPEAN UNION **PEACE** AND **INTERREG** PROGRAMMES



Sensory Engagement Project
Improving the Lives of People with
Sight and Hearing Impairment

**European Commissioner Visits
Ireland** Commissioner Attended
Conference on Co-operation
between Border Regions

**Minister Launches Report on
Small Ferries Project**

**£4M for New Cross-community
Centre** Former Colin Glen Bacon
Factory will be transformed into a
New Community Centre



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007-2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union

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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 Finance 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.

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“Foreword”



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Welcome to the Autumn edition of Your EU! As we move towards the end of 2010 a number of new and innovative projects have been launched including the Sensory Engagement Programme, led by the Royal National Institute of the Blind, and the Glen Community Complex project, based in Belfast. Details on both of these initiatives can be found within this newsletter.

The SEUPB has been very busy of late. We recently organised a highly successful workshop on managing diversity at this year's Open Days event in Brussels and co-ordinated a major two day conference, in partnership with East Border Region, for the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) in Dundalk. This event took place at the end of October at the Fairways Hotel and attracted over 200 delegates.



The European Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn gave a key-note speech at the event and was joined by Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the AEBR and Minister-President of the German speaking Community of Belgium. Both speakers recognised the success of the INTERREG Programme and the many cross-border projects it has supported over the years.

A number of Steering Committees for both the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes have been held recently and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members of these committees who continue to give of their valuable time and experience.

During October we also held the second of our bi-annual Monitoring Committees. These are an essential part of the delivery of PEACE III and INTERREG IVA and are designed to ensure that the programmes are as transparent and accountable as possible. Again I would like to express my appreciation for the continued support shown by the members of these committees.

Both the Transnational (INTERREG IVB) and Inter-regional (INTERREG IVC) Programmes are continuing to attract a number of high calibre projects. A lot of work has been carried out in this area in establishing mutually beneficial partnerships that will further the programmes' objectives.

As we move towards the winter months I anticipate that more and more applications will be processed and a number of new and successful projects will come on-line. I look forward to sharing their successes with you.

If you have any feedback about this edition of Your EU newsletter or would like additional information about any other part of our work please do not hesitate to contact us.

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body

Project News

EU Supports New 'Sensory Engagement Programme'

An innovative new cross-border project, which has been designed to improve the lives of hundreds of people with hearing and sight difficulties, has just received £1.86 million worth of support through the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme.

Called the 'Sensory Engagement Programme' it brings together four of the largest organisations providing support services for deaf and blind people across Northern Ireland and Ireland.

The project is being spearheaded by the Royal National Institute of Blind People Northern Ireland (RNIB NI) in partnership with the Royal National Institute of Deaf People (RNID), the National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI) and 'DeafHear', a registered charity looking after the needs of deaf people and their families.

Over the next three years the project will deliver a specially designed 'active citizenship' programme that will help hundreds of deaf, hard of hearing, blind and partially sighted people on a cross-border basis. As part of this programme it will provide basic IT training and a confidence building course to over 300 people with sight and hearing difficulties.



Pictured (l-r) at the launch of the Sensory Engagement Programme, which has received £1.86m assistance under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme, are Alice Lewis (Project co-ordinator with RNIB), Brenda Hegarty (SEUPB) and Barry MacCaulay (RNIB) at the Derry office of the RNIB.

The programme will also develop 'models of excellence' in service delivery within further education colleges, libraries and a number of participating banks across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. Over 600 customer facing staff working within these sectors will receive sensory awareness training to improve front line services for people with sight and hearing impairment.

"The creation of these 'models of excellence' will encourage banks, libraries and further education institutions to become more responsive to the needs of customers with sight and hearing difficulties. Ultimately this will improve access to essential services for people with sensory impairments to ensure that their unique needs are met," said Alice Lewis, Project Manager of the Sensory Engagement Programme, based in RNIB NI.

"The funding we have received from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme has enabled us to take this much needed project forward. It represents a truly collaborative approach and will have a significant and long-term impact on the lives of people on both sides of the border," continued Alice Lewis.

For further information contact Alice Lewis at alice.lewis@rnib.org.uk.

Children and Young People Building Positive Relations

Project News



Participants in the project at one of the Two Valleys project workshops, which focused on conflict resolution, good relations and diversity and peer leadership.

The Youth Education Social Inclusion Partnership (YESIP) has secured funding of just over £3.1 million under the PEACE III Programme to develop and deliver the 'Children and Young People Building Positive Relations at the Local Level' initiative.

The project involves over 10 partners from both the voluntary and statutory sectors across the eligible area and covers several different initiatives. Its goal is to contribute to a society free from sectarianism and racism, where the youth education sector can manage its own reconciliation process in building a future free from sectarian conflict.

In order to achieve this, the project partners work with several community-based groups from areas of social exclusion, both north and south of the border. Groups are encouraged to participate in a suite of innovative good relations training and development programmes. Through these training programmes the partnership aims to create capacity for young people to become peace-builders and active citizens within their own communities.

One of the many initiatives through which YESIP is delivering this programme is the Two Valleys project, managed by the Western Education & Library Board and delivered by Donegal Youth Service.

The Two Valleys project works across the Finn & Derg Valley areas in the northwest of Ireland and Northern Ireland to deliver several workshops to young people. These workshops cover topics such as conflict resolution, good relations, diversity and peer leadership. During the workshops, the participants explore the issues of equality, diversity and inclusion using photography, film and other media of artistic expression such as music or drama. As part of the programme, 60 participants will also be able to participate in a PEACE summer camp.

YESIP also held a successful event on Interculturalism in June. Project participants were given an insight into the area of Interculturalism in the context of the YESIP project, drawing out the similarities and differences between Interculturalism and peace-building, and raising key questions about the issues, challenges and fears that the project participants' experienced.

One of the highlights was the presentation from Forum Theatre which gave those present the opportunity to explore the use of the forum theatre technique to resolve conflict. Facilitators from National Youth Council Ireland demonstrated how the technique could facilitate different conversations and help young people to see the view points of others.

For further information on YESIP contact:
Mr. Kieran Shields, YESIP manager, SELB, 3 Charlemont Place,
The Mall, Armagh, BT61 9AX.

Project News

Shankill Women's Centre works small wonders with support from the EU

A new project which will encourage greater community integration, provide educational opportunities for women and create modern childcare facilities has received just over £700,000 of funding from the EU's PEACE III Programme.

Based within the Lower Shankill and Lower Falls area, the 'Small Wonders II' project will transform St. Luke's Church Hall on Northumberland Street, West Belfast, into a high quality childcare and education facility, for use on a cross-community basis.

Speaking at the launch of the project Northern Ireland Finance Minister Sammy Wilson, MP said: "The EU PEACE III Programme aims to contribute towards a shared society. By providing a neutral base for childcare and educational services, it is hoped that this project will encourage and support residents of the Shankill and Falls areas to build cross-community relations."

The project has been developed by the Shankill Women's Centre, a community focused organisation set up in 1978 to provide educational courses and childcare services for local women.

Upon completion the new facility will employ up to 12 full-time childcare workers, as well as a cross-community outreach worker to encourage residents living within the Greater Shankill and Falls areas to participate in peace and reconciliation programmes.



Minister Wilson is joined by Betty Carlisle MBE, Centre Manager at the Shankill Women's Centre and Howard Kerry, SEUPB.

Commenting on the project Betty Carlisle MBE, Manager of the Shankill Women's Centre, said: "We would consider this project to be iconic in nature as it is the first shared space initiative located next to the peace line on Northumberland Street. It will help to regenerate a previously derelict area as well as create new employment opportunities for local residents, on both sides of the community. The project will feature a peace-themed outdoor play area and will help reduce sectarianism and racism through the delivery of cultural diversity as well as peace and reconciliation training programmes," she continued.

The facility will offer a wide-range of educational training to give women access to the skills, qualifications and self-confidence needed to gain long-term employment.

Designed as a social economy business it is also expected that the 'Small Wonders II' project will become sustainable within two to three years of operation.

For additional information contact the Shankill Women's Centre at info@shankillwomenscentre.org.uk.

Small Ferries Project Report Launched

Project News



Guy Platten, Chief Executive of Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited, with Minister for Regional Development Conor Murphy, at the launch of the Small Ferries Project Report.

Northern Ireland Transport Minister Conor Murphy recently launched the Small Ferries feasibility report at the Belfast Harbour Commissioner's office.

The report, which has received support under the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme examines options for a common design and procurement strategy for small ferries.

Speaking at the event Minister Murphy said: "I welcome this report today from the Small Ferries Project Steering Group and I wish to congratulate them on the collaborative cross-border approach they have taken to this study."

"The Small Ferries Project has demonstrated that there are opportunities for public bodies across these islands to join together to address issues that are common to them all. I look forward to reading the report in detail and considering its recommendations," he continued.

The Small Ferries Project involved the Department for Regional Development partnering with the Department of Equality, Community and Gaeltacht Affairs, in Ireland, and Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited, in Scotland to investigate ways to design, build and procure a replacement fleet of small ferries, to

deliver lifeline ferry services for remote communities off the Irish and Scottish coastlines including the Rathlin to Ballycastle route.

The objectives of the project were to estimate the demand for ferry services to different islands and isolated rural communities within the eligible area and to develop innovative methods of finance and procurement for the next generation of ferries servicing these remote destinations.

The report outlines a proposal for the development of a common vessel design and a cross-border collaborative approach to procuring replacement ferries, to deliver new vessels and associated improvements in harbour infrastructure.

This approach would ensure cost savings in vessel procurement, bring shared expertise to the research of new technologies and help to ensure flexibility in operation and maintenance of the fleet.

Eight routes were examined by the project, however it is anticipated that the outcomes will have wider reach and benefit for other routes across the three regions.

A copy of the Small Ferries report can be found at www.cmassets.co.uk.

Real Life Interviews



Laura McCauley, the singer-songwriter is one of the participants in the Sensory Engagement Project.



Sensory Engagement, Improving Lives.

Real Life Interviews

Being able to withdraw money from a cash machine or inquire about a library book are simple tasks many of us take for granted. But for Laura McCauley those tasks are not that simple. The 26-year-old from Derry is blind. She has not lost her sight completely but she has been registered as blind since birth.

Laura has a condition known as albinism, a congenital disorder which is characterised by the absence of pigment in the skin. Or in more common terms, she is albino. Another aspect of the condition is very poor vision. For Laura this has resulted in extreme short sightedness. She explained that while she has learned to cope in the sighted world, there are still some everyday things that remain troublesome.

“Going to the cash machine is something that can be hard,” Laura explained. “Some of them are fine because some of them have quite large print but it also depends on where they are and if the sun is shining on them.”

“A lot of the time, though, you end up having your face pressed up against them because you can’t see them. It can be very difficult and sometimes I have to ask someone at the bank to take money out for me.”

Laura hopes the new Sensory Engagement Programme will help to address problems like this as well as improve front line services for people with sight and hearing impairment. The programme, which will operate on a cross-border basis, has received assistance under the EU’s INTERREG IVA Programme.

The 26-year-old singer-songwriter, who is currently studying counselling at the Women’s Centre in Derry, said creating more awareness of both conditions was needed in order to make life a little bit easier for deaf and blind people.

“I don’t think people are very aware,” she said. “I have had very mixed experiences where people have been very helpful and where people haven’t been helpful.”

“What I have found is there is a lack of understanding. If you say that you are registered blind some people don’t understand that you can still see or what you can see. I then find people sometimes go over the top by doing stuff you can do yourself or vice versa.”

“I think this is going to be a really positive programme. It’s educating not only those who are registered blind but those who are sighted. I hope it will help people understand what it is like to be registered blind.”

For information on The Sensory Engagement Project see page 4.

News & Info

Major EU Conference on Cross-border Co-operation



A major conference, held on behalf of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), took place at the Fairways Hotel in Dundalk on 21 and 22 October. Formed in 1971 the AEBR has emerged as the main forum for the exchange of best practice between border regions within the European Union.

Attracting over 250 delegates from across Europe the two day conference was hosted by the cross-border development body East Border Region (EBR), with assistance from the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme. It was the first time, in over twenty years, that the event was hosted locally.

Welcoming delegates to the conference, Councillor John Farrelly, Chairman of the EBR, said: "As Chairman of East Border Region I am thrilled to be hosting the 2010 AEBR Conference. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase our region to our European neighbours. We will endeavour to ensure that our visitors receive

a positive image of our region thus insuring increased investment through return visitor numbers".

Focusing on the common challenges that people living along a border area routinely face, such as access to public services, employment and education, the conference also highlighted how greater levels of EU regional co-operation can help to alleviate the worst effects of the recession.

Speaking at the event Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the AEBR said: "Border regions are particularly affected by the economic crisis. In these difficult times, overcoming disparities between regions through increased territorial cohesion is crucial. Cross-border co-operation contributes significantly to achieving this goal. This conference will highlight the need to further strengthen cohesion policy and especially cross-border co-operation from 2014 onwards".

During the event a series of seminars and workshops were also held on a wide-range of issues including cross-border approaches to health; the promotion of tourism within Northern Ireland and Ireland; as well as the potential to enhance cross-border business co-operation.

NI Finance Minister Sammy Wilson MP, MLA, addressed the delegates at a specially held reception in Newry Town Hall, following the first day of the conference, saying:

"The current economic climate and harsh financial realities we face are not unique to Northern Ireland, as all of the European regions have been affected, but this conference provides a platform to strengthen and build lasting partnerships. Co-operation between regions happens all over Europe and I

would encourage delegates to look at ways in which the European regions might work together to address the economic problems that affect us all.”

Commenting on the positive outcomes of such co-operation, Mr Wilson continued: “I have always believed it essential that European regions work together on a cross-border basis where it is practical and mutually beneficial to do so. It is all the more important in these challenging times.”

As part of his first ever visit to Ireland, the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn delivered the key-note address on the second day of the conference. Responsible for a regional development budget of approximately €350 billion, or 36% of the total EU budget, the Commissioner holds a highly significant position within the Commission.

Of this figure €92m is being made available to various cross-border projects, in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Scotland from 2007-2013, as part of the EU's INTERREG IVA Programme.

“In today's challenging economic conditions, the EU's regional policy must deliver tangible results and above all, the creation of jobs. In our ever more interconnected world, achieving growth in one region will lead to new employment in another.”

“My job is to put European regional policy at the heart of our efforts for economic recovery and long term prosperity under our EU 2020 strategy. The aim is a better life for Europeans everywhere: from the most densely populated cities, to the deepest countryside and the remotest islands,” said the Commissioner.

As part of his visit Commissioner Hahn was invited on a quick tour of the Dundalk Institute of Technology to see at first hand the impact that the INTERREG IVA Programme is making to a diverse range of technology based projects within the region.

He also met with beneficiaries of the PEACE III funded S.P.I.R.A.L. (Storytelling to Promote Intergenerational Reconciliation and Learning), project which uses storytelling to promote intergenerational peace and reconciliation amongst those severely affected by the conflict.

To mark the closure of the conference on 22 October a dinner was held in Darver Castle, County Louth and was attended by Mairead McGuinness MEP.



EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, accompanied by Peter Mee and Damien Purcell from the multi-media MIDAS centre, a multimedia EU-funded project, during the visit to the Dundalk Institute of Technology.

On previous page, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, speaking at the AEBR annual conference in Dundalk.

News & Info

Managing Diversity in EU Regions and Cities – Open Days 2010

At this year's Open Days event in Brussels the SEUPB organised a well attended workshop focusing on the management of diversity across EU regions and cities.

The enlargement of the EU and subsequent shift in migration patterns has led to the emergence of a more multi-cultural and diverse society. Whilst full integration of these new ethnic populations has met with minimal opposition within many regions and cities, this has not been the case in all situations. Effectively managing diversity and ensuring positive and long-term integration is not an easy task and requires a large degree of sensitivity and understanding in order to be successful.

Three very different approaches to integration were discussed during the workshop. Councillor Máire Hendron, current Chair of the Good Relations Partnership with Belfast City Council, spoke about the challenges the city has faced in integrating new ethnic populations within a society that is still emerging from conflict. She outlined the various techniques and initiatives that have been used to reach out to these communities, as well as the migration awareness training and other services that have been implemented by the Council.

Two speakers from the City of Malmö, Sylvia Morfiadakis and Kim Witt, outlined a highly innovative project called 'Mabi Mål', developed in association with Swedish football club FC Rosengård. Designed to help many long-term unemployed migrants get back into work, the project matches the skills of its participants to local businesses to help promote integration through the workplace. Finishing next year Mabi Mål represents one of the most successful social integration initiatives developed in Sweden.

The final presentation at the workshop was delivered by Gerard Spierling who works within the Safety Department of the Municipality of Rotterdam. He has developed a number of initiatives to help integrate the Moroccan community within the local population. During the event he outlined in detail the unique challenges he has faced working with this community and the various techniques he has used to help overcome them.

The speakers were all in agreement that employment has an essential part to play in the full integration of migrant populations within EU regions and cities.



An Opportunity to Learn about Europe

Another 'Opportunity Europe' event took place on 19-20 October at St. George's Market, in Belfast. The annual exhibition provides an opportunity to introduce a new generation of young people to all things European.

Visitors from across Northern Ireland were able to learn about European countries, the European Union and also become acquainted with the many institutions in Northern Ireland that represent the European Union and its initiatives.

Over the two-day event, SEUPB staff took turns to man a specially designed stand and tasked children with 'spotting the difference' between two photos with several EU related images, logos and symbols.

Part of the two-day event was also dedicated to the visit of older people from all over Northern Ireland who had the chance to learn about the EU. Several of the older visitors noted just how much the European Union has changed and evolved in the last few decades, compared to when they were younger and the EU was a fairly recent reality.

SEUPB also took advantage of the event to teach young people about the impact that both PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes are having in creating peace and stability and greater cross-border co-operation across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

Receiving a huge amount of positive feedback from the children the event proved to be a great success with visitors coming away with a better knowledge of the role that the EU plays in our day-to-day lives.

New Call for Proposals to the PEACE III Programme (2007-2013)

A new call for proposals for the EU's PEACE III Programme is currently open. The call opened on 1 October and applications are invited under the following priorities:

- Priority 1 Reconciling Communities, Theme 1 Building Positive Relations – Regional Projects;
- Priority 2 Contributing to a Shared Society, Theme 1 Creating Shared Public Spaces; and
- Priority 2 Contributing to a Shared Society, Theme 2 Key Institutional Capacities are Developed for a Shared Society.

The call for applications to the three priorities will close on Monday 17 January 2011 at 3pm.

A new call for proposals under the INTERREG IVA Programme, Enterprise theme, opened on 9 November 2010 and will be closing on 21 January 2011.

Information about the PEACE III Programme and INTERREG IVA Programmes, these themes, eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found at www.seupb.eu/programmes.htm.

Applications can only be made by visiting www.eugrants.org.

Project News

Sustainable Development of Marine Leisure and Water-Sports

An ambitious project to develop the marine leisure and water-sports sector all over the Atlantic Area Region has received funding from the European Union under the INTERREG IVB Programme. 'Nautisme Espace Atlantique II' (NEA II) is a transnational co-operation project which builds on the success of the NEA I project.

The initiative aims for the sustainable development of the marine leisure and water-sports industry in the Atlantic Area. It seeks to support not only marine tourism but all the activities that gravitate around the marine leisure sector. To achieve that, the partners will work to share best practice; support marine leisure businesses and service providers to improve the quality of their output.

It will also support participation at marine leisure/water-sports industry events and conferences; and market the sector worldwide. The objective is to promote the outstanding heritage of this area, with over 30,000kms of coast, highlighting its diversity but giving it a common identity. There is an estimated 2.5 million people in the Atlantic Area alone who practice marine activities. This increases to 100 million people if the volume of tourists is taken into consideration.

In Northern Ireland, the project partner is Ards Borough Council, which is focusing on enhancing the co-operation with the regions



in the Republic of Ireland and Galicia, where economic synergies exist with the fishing fleets and marine biology initiatives.

Karine McGuckin, Project Manager, highlighted some of the activities the team is working on: "Ards is keen to represent NI and deliver on the organisation of an international symposium on water-sports linked to marine biology, taking place at the Exploris, the Northern Ireland Aquarium, situated on the shores of Strangford Lough. This Conference will take place on 17-19 May 2011. The Council also aims to organise exchanges of young people between Ards / NI representatives and their counterparts in the participant regions, including Ireland, France and Galicia".

Co-ordinated by the Regional County of Brittany, the lead partner, NEA II runs from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011. The total budget available for the project is roughly €4.7 million, with over €3 million coming directly from EU funding.

The 23 partners in the project include organisations from: Ireland, UK, Basse-Normandie, Brittany and Pays de la Loire in France, North and Central Portugal, Andalucia and Galicia in Spain.

For further information contact: Karine McGuckin / karine.McGuckin@ards-council.gov.uk at Ards Borough Council.

Transnational and Inter-regional Programmes Update

Project News

Northern Periphery Programme Annual Conference 9 September 2010

The Northern Periphery Programme held their Annual Conference in Bunnahinch, Ireland on 9 September 2010. The main purpose of the Annual Conference which was entitled 'Stimulating Growth, Social Inclusion and Equal Opportunities in rural areas through enhanced rural business development and core service provision' was to assist main projects to implement the horizontal principle of equal opportunities in their approved projects. The conference was attended by over 90 participants and speakers from a range of organisations in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland made presentations on topics such as Stimulating Rural Business Innovation; Good Practice in Rural Service Provision; and The Business Case for Equality.

North West Europe – Annual Conference 2010

The Annual Event of INTERREG IVB North West Europe (NEW) 2010 will take place on 6 and 7 December in Manchester. The NWE Annual Event 2010 will show the state of affairs of the programme with an accent on innovation as a cross-cutting feature of all NWE projects. Programme officers and contact persons will explain to delegates how to get funds, with plenty of useful tips and examples per priority. A Projects Fair will showcase the most innovative achievements and will serve as the meeting point between current and future project leaders and all those interested in getting an in-depth view of the NWE Programme.

INTERREG IVC fourth call – open soon

The next call for INTERREG IVC projects will open in late January or early February 2011 and will close towards the end of March or early April.

The INTERREG IVC Monitoring Committee has decided that all themes will in principle be open for submissions. However the call will not be available for Capitalisation projects or mini programmes.

If you have any questions on any of the INTERREG IVB or IVC programmes, please do not hesitate to contact the Programme Manager at SEUPB, Teresa Lennon – teresa.lennon@seupb.eu.

'Dealing with the Past, Shaping the Future' Starts with the Family

Participants from the age of two to 58 years old from Derry/Londonderry and County Donegal came together recently for another round of Corrymeela Family Respite. During the week-long event which took place at the Corrymeela Centre at Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, participants engaged in ice-breakers, teambuilding exercises, and community relations workshops adapted to the different age groups. The initiative was the residential component of the 'Dealing with the Past, Shaping the Future' project, which is funded through the PEACE III Programme.

Fifty-six people from a total of seventeen different families took part in the residential. The group made two off-site trips to Barry's Amusements in Portrush and to Watertop Farm and throughout the entire week everyone enjoyed the local beaches and relaxing atmosphere of the Corrymeela Centre. Corrymeela staff and volunteers were on hand to assist with activities, childcare and entertainment and were instrumental in making the week a success.



Participants at this year's Corrymeela Family Respite, which focused on the 'Dealing with the Past, Shaping the Future' theme.

'Dealing with the Past, Shaping the Future' is a project of the Peace and Reconciliation Group which aims to engage with cross-border statutory and voluntary organisations as well as individuals to develop programmes that will help them deal with the past and pave the way for divided communities to be reconciled. The project delivers through three main areas: training, family residentials, and creating fora for open discussion.

This project will enable those working in this field and individuals from across Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland to contribute to the debate and participate in a series of accredited training courses, including: facilitation skills, introduction to cultural diversity programmes and introduction, intermediate and advanced Conflict Resolution and Mediation Skills training.

For further information please contact Anna Murray at the PRG office or at anna@peaceprg.co.uk.

EU Provides £4million for New Cross-Community Centre

Project News

The first steps towards providing a new purpose built community resource centre on the site of the former Colin Glen Bacon factory at Suffolk Road, by the end of 2012, are now underway. The project has received approximately £4million from the EU's PEACE III Programme.

Over the last 20 years the former Bacon factory has housed much needed community support services which include crèche facilities, after school club, counselling, education and training, family support and youth services.

Although the physical condition of the former mill building was very poor, the demand for these services from the surrounding community, living on both sides of the Suffolk interface, remained very high.

The Project Lead for the redevelopment of the Bacon Factory is North and West Housing, a housing association with charitable status, that acquired the property in 2003 and built 120 social houses on the vacant ground to the rear of the mill, now known as Derryveagh Drive.

Following the temporary re-location of the community services to other work places nearby, North and West Housing appointed a specialist contractor to demolish the vacant building and clear the site. Planning permission for the new building will be given early in 2011 and it is anticipated that construction will begin by the autumn of that year.

The total cost of the project is estimated at £4.5m with The Atlantic Philanthropies contributing £0.5m in addition to the £4m from the European Union. Much of the black stone which was a feature of the former mill will be reused in the new building. To ensure income generation two retail units will also be provided.

Social Development Minister Alex Attwood visited the site recently to view progress of this important cross-community project. He said: "When complete this new building will provide a fit for purpose community facility at the Lenadon/ Suffolk interface. It will create a shared space and support the delivery of the various peace, reconciliation and regeneration priorities for the area. I am delighted with the plans for this impressive development and progress to date."

Accompanying the Minister in the visit, Pat Colgan, SEUPB Chief Executive, praised the commitment of the different partners involved. "It is extremely rewarding to see that people are willing to work together to ensure the continuity of important services, available to all members of the community, in better and more appropriate facilities. Promoting shared neutral space such as this is one of the key priorities of the PEACE III Programme and an essential step in helping to normalise social relationships within our community."



Social Development Minister Alex Attwood, Gerry Kelly, Director of North West Housing and Pat Colgan from the Special EU Programmes Body on the site of the former Colin Glen Bacon Factory.

Colin McKenna, Development Manager of the Central Border Region Spatial Planning Initiative speaking at the launch event.

Project News

Central Border Region Planning for a More Prosperous Future

The Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) Ltd launched a new INTERREG IVA-funded project on 8 October. The Central Border Region's Spatial Planning Initiative is an attempt to give this region an identity, something that it can be associated with.

The main objective of the initiative is to develop a 'marketable' vision that presents the Central Border Region in its own right, thus shaping and branding an image based on what makes the area unique, and utilise that image to promote the region and foster economic development. For example, it might be a region renowned for the quality of its tourism product or a region leading the way in renewable energy.



The project, worth nearly £1.5 million, will also result in a document to complement the national strategies of both governments in Northern Ireland and Ireland, translating key strategies into local and regional actions, while at the same time serving to influence future government policy.

Through this development of the Central Border Region, ICBAN will be encouraging mutually beneficial relationships through joint working between the councils, north and south of the border, along with other key stakeholders.

In order to do this, ICBAN will bring together the most knowledgeable and influential players from across the region, to engage in the process of developing a vision for the Central Border Region. It will also seek to address the issues that affect people's day-to-day lives such as Telecoms; by working to highlight problems in broadband and mobile phone service.

Parallel to this, the project will contribute toward improving the road infrastructure in the region, in order to provide the area with the physical means by which to enhance its economic potential.

By creating an exciting new strategy which has the capability of influencing policy-makers, the initiative aims to ultimately help improve the quality of life for citizens who work and live in the Central Border Region.

For further information on this project, please contact Colin at the ICBAN office on 0044 2866 340718 or colin@icban.com.



Jim O'Neil at the Cartoons in Conflict exhibition at the Community in Dialogue centre in Belfast.

Project News

Cartoons Show Futility of Conflict

An international group of acclaimed cartoonists demonstrated the destructive absurdity of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict at an exhibition held in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry. The event was hosted by Community Dialogue under the auspices of its Steps into Dialogue programme which is funded under the EU's PEACE III Programme.

Featuring some 35 cartoonists from more than 20 countries, the exhibition was the idea of 'The Parents' Circle-Families Forum', a group of bereaved Palestinian and Israeli families who wanted to highlight the futility of violence in the region.

Artists who have contributed work to *Cartooning in Conflict* include Pulitzer Prize winners Pat Oliphant and Jim Morin; Polish-born satirist Andrzej Krauze; Britain's David Bromley, and Japan's Norio Yamanoi.

Many of the cartoons feature two sides locked in conflict despite pleas for peace from innocent people caught up in the violence. A battered dove of peace appears prominently in many. "Cartoons by their very nature can be abusive and extreme, funny and painful. The truth comes out with just a few strokes of the brush," says Robi Damelin, a member of the 'Parents' Circle - Families Forum'.

"These works illustrate the destructive absurdity of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and, more importantly serve as a

catalyst for hope by allowing the audience to imagine a path to reconciliation and peace."

'The Parents' Circle-Families Forum' was founded in 1995 and consists of 500 Israeli and Palestinian bereaved families who work together to promote peace through reconciliation and understanding.

Robi's son David, 28, a student at Tel Aviv University, was serving as a reservist in the Israeli army when he was killed by a Palestinian sniper. She now travels the world with Palestinian members of the group to promote the message that there will only be peace in the Middle East with reconciliation.

'The Parents' Circle' kindly donated the cartoons to Community Dialogue and these can now be used as a tool for dialogue and discussion in Northern Ireland.

Community Dialogue is made up of people from diverse communities within Northern Ireland. As a group they take no position on party-political issues and believe that if we want a better future we need to take time to listen to each other and to question ourselves and our actions.

For more information contact Jim O'Neill, Community in Dialogue, at jim@communitydialogue.org.

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,
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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 (excluding Greater Belfast), 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
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Caroline Coleman, National Contact Point for Scotland, Scotland Europa, 150 Broomielaw, Atlantic Quay, Glasgow G2 8LU.
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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, environment-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: Teresa Lennon at the SEUPB Belfast office:
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