

### 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:

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Omagh, Tel: +44 (0) 28 8225 5750  
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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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### 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 Interregional Programme

The €302 million INTERREG IVC Interregional 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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#### Special EU Programmes Body

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# Your EU!



Special EU Programmes Body  
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE  
Board O Dwre Ocht UE Projects

WINTER 2009

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



#### **Rapid Urban Collective**

Building community relationships in Sligo

#### **Harnessing Equality for a Lasting Peace**

Innovative project with Donegal community workers

#### **Renewable Energy for Rural Areas**

Northern Periphery project to use waste to generate energy

#### **Shoring up Marine Tourism**

Loughs Agency project in Carlingford and Foyle



**Northern Ireland Executive**  
[www.northernireland.gov.uk](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk)



Ireland's EU Structural Funds Programmes 2007-2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union

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**Front cover photograph:** Alan McAfee at Ballymena Northern Regional College, that along with the Institute of Technology, Sligo and Ayr College, is helping manufacturing sector businesses access cutting-edge robotics technology, through the Knowledge & Innovation Transfer in Engineering project, supported by the EU INTERREG IVA Programme.



Special EU Programmes Body  
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE  
Board Ó Dúire Ocht UE Projects

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) establishing 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 ”



As we approach the New Year, the winter months are an excellent opportunity to reflect upon some of the achievements that the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE III) and the Cross-Border Programme for Territorial Co-operation (INTERREG IVA) have made in 2009.

Both programmes are continuing to support a number of pioneering projects which are delivering real benefits to all communities living within the eligible areas of Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.

The assistance, dedication and commitment shown by the members of both the monitoring and steering committees have been essential in ensuring that the programmes are being implemented as effectively as possible. The SEUPB would like to acknowledge the collective efforts of all those involved in this work as they help to ensure that the highest standards of openness and transparency are maintained.

Whilst 2009 has been a challenging period for both the private and public sector, the delivery of the programmes is continuing well, with 78 projects approved under PEACE III, and 34 under INTERREG IVA, to date.

The SEUPB has been working closely with the Department of Finance and Personnel in the North and the Department of Finance in the South, as well as all of the other Accountable Departments, to ensure that both programmes deliver upon their objectives.

In response to the current economic climate, the SEUPB has also pro-actively enacted a number of cost efficiencies and is committed to ensuring that these are maintained throughout 2010 and beyond.

In October the SEUPB, acting as the secretariat for the Peace Network, held a very successful seminar at this year's Open Days event in Brussels. Attracting a number of influential EU officials and political representatives, the seminar provided a valuable platform from which to update attendees about the work of the Network and, potentially, to increase its membership from other European countries.

The SEUPB has also been supporting new and highly beneficial cross-border initiatives through the Transnational (INTERREG IVB) and Inter-regional (INTERREG IVC) Programmes. In promoting these programmes, the Body has been able to stimulate the level of information and experience sharing, to the benefit of all participating regions.

As we look forward to 2010 I anticipate that a number of new and innovative projects will be approved which will allow us to create a more peaceful and stable society, as well as to generate increased prosperity on a cross-border basis.

**Pat Colgan**  
Chief Executive  
Special EU Programmes Body



# Going Down the path of mutual respect

Anti-social behaviour is a phenomenon common to society the world over. In Northern Ireland, however, the situation is exacerbated among young people, who have grown up in communities emerging from years of sectarian conflict.

The PATHS Project aims to tackle the problem from a very early age by engaging children as young as ten years old. This innovative project focuses on the motivation behind sectarian and racist behaviour in Londonderry, which can manifest itself in a number of ways - through rowdy, riotous conduct, name calling, physical attacks and offensive graffiti.

The programme is being delivered simultaneously in three geographic communities of the city - the Bogside and Brandywell, Newbuildings and within the Travelling community in the Ballyarnett area of Greater Shantallow.

PATHS (Positive Alternative to Hatred and Sectarianism) has been

funded through the European Union's PEACE III Programme, managed for the SEUPB by Dove House Community Trust. The project partners are Derry Travellers and Newbuildings Community Association.

Three part-time youth workers have been employed to deliver the project in the three areas, using a combination of peer mentoring, group work sessions and survival training. It aims to offer help and support to its participants - aged between 10 and 25 and from different religious and ethnic backgrounds - and to create a peaceful, stable environment in which they can grow in mutual respect and understanding.

The young people take part

together in outdoor survival activities, drama groups, discussions and debates, art workshops and overnight expeditions. There is particular emphasis placed on dealing with situations arising at certain times of the year, when sectarian tension is heightened.

Sixteen year-old Clíodhna from the Bogside is in no doubt about what she has got out of taking part in PATHS.

"The mentoring programme was really good. It was good to learn about different cultures and different identities. It was great meeting other young people from different minorities. I would not have been given these opportunities if it was not for the

PATHS programme," she says. Her words endorse the view that through this programme, young people will develop the confidence, skills and knowledge, which can lead them away from sectarian and racist violence and counter the negative perceptions, held by themselves and others, about the communities which they come from.

Further information from Elaine Doherty, Youth First Co-ordinator on: +44 (0)28 7126 9327 and [elaine\\_doherty@talk21.com](mailto:elaine_doherty@talk21.com)

IMAGE Young participants on the Positive Alternative to Hatred and Sectarianism project in Derry.(l-r) Rebecca McClelland, Clíodhna McCool, Shannon Gillespe and Jade Huey.

An innovative project, involving collaboration between health service providers, information and communication technology (ICT) companies and universities in Sweden, Norway and Northern Ireland, is developing new products and services which offer older people mobile-phone based services for improved health, safety and well-being.

The MyHealth@Age project receives European Union funding through the Northern Periphery Programme, an INTERREG IVB Transnational Programme.

In Northern Ireland, the project team comprises staff at the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, researchers within three Schools at the University of Ulster, a Newry company which has developed Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) people tracking technology and a Belfast company which has developed a social networking service.

Dr George Moore of the University of Ulster, is the project's Principal Investigator in Northern Ireland.

"The aim of the project is to research, develop and trial new mobile products and services that elderly people can use to help them feel safer both in their homes and in the community so they can live a more active and healthy life. These products and services are based around using smartphones and incorporate a personal safety alarm and GPS tracking technologies," George explains.

The new services are now being trialled by a group of older people in the Newry area, following an extensive user centred design process.

Using a standard commercially available mobile handset, the team has developed specialist services which older people can access via their smartphones.

For example, the phone can connect to a specially designed fall sensor to act as a safety alarm, alerting an alarm centre if the user has a fall. Help can then be dispatched using the new GPS tracking technology within the smartphone to identify the user's location.

Older people are also able to engage socially using the project's mobile social networking service. This



## New Technologies to Help Improve the Health, Safety and Well-Being of Older People

IMAGE Johanna Galligan explains the new smartphone technology and services to Sean Gibbs, one of a group of older people in the Newry area trialling them for 9-12 months

can help them to stay in touch while at home and also to arrange social events.

The new services can also be used to help older people with prescribed self health care practices. For example, under the direction of the health staff, people could monitor their own blood pressure or blood glucose levels at home, using the smartphone to record and transmit the data back to a specialist nurse.

"This is an exciting project which will give us a better understanding of how the potential from new technology products could be developed and deployed for the future and how their applications could shape

responses from Health and Social Services to better meet the needs of older people. There are regular meetings of the project teams from the three countries taking part which gives us a chance to exchange information and share new developments," Dr Moore added.

The SEUPB acts as the Regional Contact Point for the Northern Periphery Programme. For more information, please contact: Teresa Lennon, INTERREG IVB and IVC Programme Manager, [teresa.lennon@seupb.eu](mailto:teresa.lennon@seupb.eu)



# Sligo's Rapid **URBAN COLLECTIVE** Builds Relationships

One innovative project in Sligo, the Rapid Urban Collective, embraces the ethos of the PEACE III Programme with great enthusiasm, building on the themes of partnership, equality and inclusion. Supported through the Sligo PEACE III Action Plan and spearheaded by Sligo's Rapid Area Implementation Team, it brings together nine groups from the statutory and voluntary/community sectors to deliver an exciting programme of work.

The project focuses on establishing meaningful dialogue and exchange through shared interests and common concerns within a number of disadvantaged urban areas in Sligo. It provides opportunities for people of all ages and abilities and from all sections of the community to come together

to build relationships (locally and cross-border) and to address issues relating to sectarianism and racism.

For example:

- Rehab Care, The Model and Stravaganza, Derry come together to develop a cross-border drama project for a mixed ability group.

- MCR Community Centre and Cranmore Community Co-Operative have developed a joint youth soccer/inter-cultural awareness project.

- The Sligo Immigrant Organisation hosts a cross-border sports programme with a focused discussion forum and media campaign designed to challenge prejudice.

- Sligo Traveller Support Group's cross-border project works to build good relations between Traveller and settled youth.

- Northside offers tailor-made training in inter-culturalism to community leaders and volunteers.

- Sligo Education Centre delivers a challenging programme designed to promote and develop conflict resolution/mediation skills among pupils, teachers and parents from schools on both sides of the border.

Bringing this collective together has been no easy feat, as Rapid Co-ordinator Pamela Anderson explained: "We wanted to develop a collective which would engage with the PEACE Programme in a meaningful way and effect lasting change in our communities."

The members of the Collective are very aware that, while they have worked hard to bring the project to this point, they are just beginning the journey. Speaking on their behalf, Collective steering group member, Marcella McGarry, said: "The principal challenge is to constantly challenge our own values and to assess how inclusive we are."

For further information contact Helen O'Hara, project co-ordinator: 00353 (0) 71 91 11823, e-mail: h.ohara@sligococo.ie

**IMAGE** Touch The Sky Performance Group, an art performance partnership between The Model Arts and Niland Gallery and RehabCare, Sligo.



Belfast is rapidly becoming known as a city of festivals. It is now home to some ninety annual festivals, a vivid reflection of its burgeoning and diverse cultural and artistic life.

Belfast City Council's Good Relations Partnership is in the process of developing shared cultural space in the city to accommodate a wide-ranging, innovative programme of sporting, arts and leisure-based events, for the benefit of its many local and ethnic communities.

The project is funded by the European Union's PEACE III Programme, managed for the SEUPB by Belfast City Council's Good Relations Partnership.

The Partnership has supported a number of major events during the past months. These include the celebrations to mark the reopening of Belfast City Hall, following its £11 million refurbishment.

The recent Diwali/Samhain celebrations formed a lively bridge between Ireland and India, welcoming participants and visitors from Turkey, Romania, South and North India, Denmark, Egypt and Lithuania, most of whom were coming to the City Hall for the first time.

Nisha Tandon runs ArtsEkta, Northern Ireland's leading arts organisation devoted to addressing the needs of artists among ethnic minorities. She has been a driving force behind the programme and feels that it is

very important for the city to have a shared space, especially in such a beautiful and significant setting as the splendid City Hall.

"We are an organisation which proudly promotes all cultures," she explains. "This important new initiative sends out a powerful message that Belfast is a city for all," she says. "Funding from the PEACE III Programme has been instrumental in delivering cultural events which are truly welcoming and inclusive.

"Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, is the most popular of all the festivals from South Asia and is also the occasion for celebrations by Jains and Sikhs, as well as Hindus.

"It celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance, although the actual legends which go with the festival are different in different parts of India."

The Irish festival of Samhain was principally a harvest festival. But, it also has aspects of a festival of the dead and is now seen as contributing to the modern celebration of Halloween.

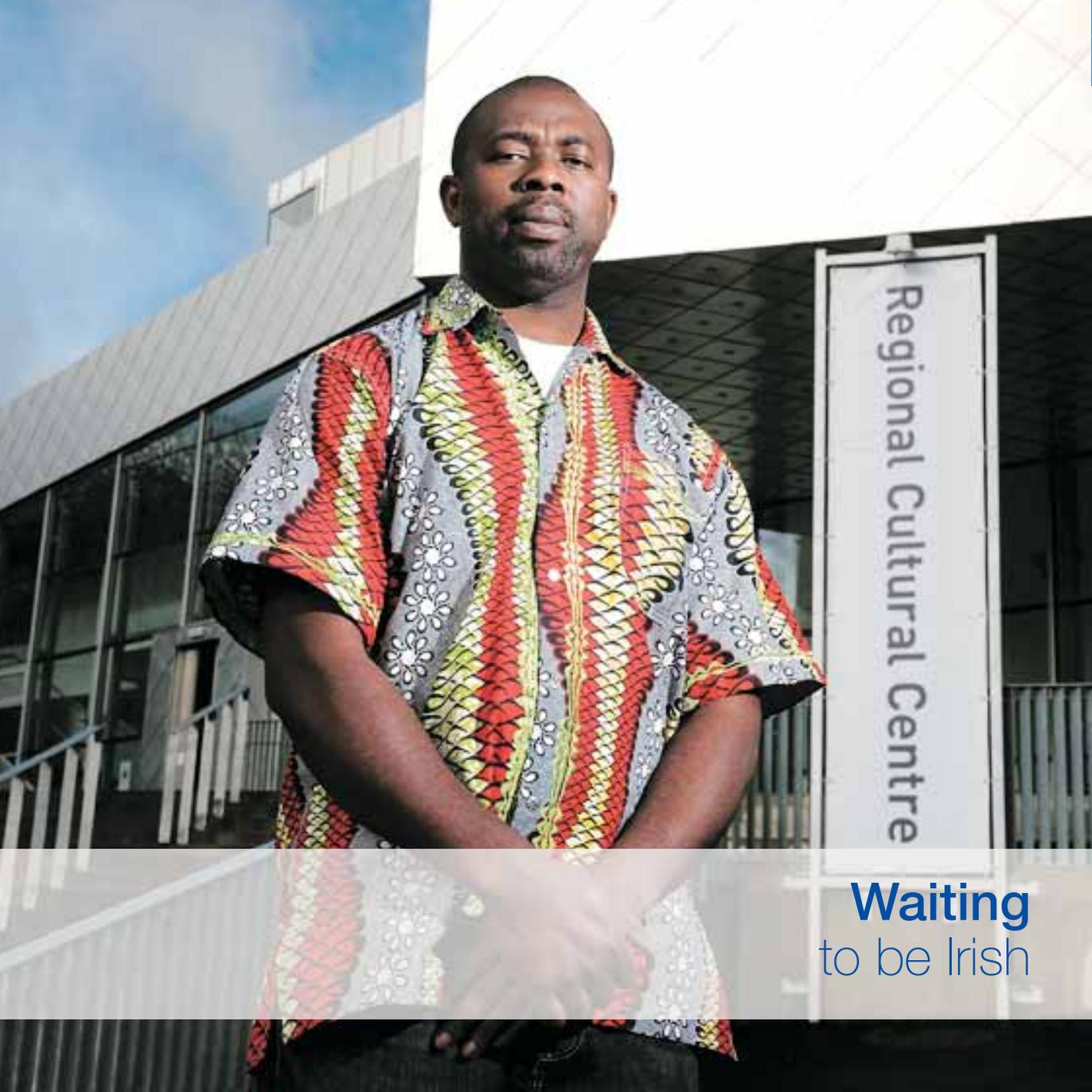
For further information contact Isaac May at Belfast City Council on: [mayi@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:mayi@belfastcity.gov.uk)  
T: 028 9032 0202, Ext. 6034

**IMAGE** India and Ireland come together through dance and culture in the Diwali/Samhain celebrations at Belfast City Hall.



# BELFAST

## a City full of Festivals



Regional Cultural Centre

**Waiting**  
to be Irish

“This work has made me a different person. It has taken me to new places and introduced me to new people and all kinds of possibilities are opening up to me. It has given me back my life.”

Actor/writer Theo Guessela



**In September, an important piece of drama went on tour in County Donegal. 'Waiting to be Irish' was the work of two actors from Cameroon, both refugees living in Ireland. Its success underlines the value of issue-based theatre models as tools/resource catalysts for dialogue and reframing.**

The two were keen to tell their stories of why they had come to Ireland and to share their experience of waiting for their cases to be heard and processed. Jo Hunt, an asylum seeker support worker, joined them as an educational facilitator during the post-show discussions.

The first phase of the project was supported by Donegal County Council and the subsequent tour by the European Union's PEACE III Programme, managed for the SEUPB by the Donegal CDB Peace and Reconciliation Partnership.

Thirty-eight year-old Theo Guessela used to teach science in a college in Cameroon, where he also co-ordinated a scheme, which enabled disadvantaged people access to education.

He arrived in Ireland eight years ago in search of asylum and waited six years for his official papers to come through. Now he says he is Irish by nationality but still Cameroonian in spirit.

“It's hard for people to say the exact reasons why they leave their country and go somewhere else,” he says. “In my case, it was for personal and political reasons. I needed to be somewhere where I would feel safe.

“People told me that Ireland was a good place to come to. I knew almost nothing about its culture or anything about the reality of life here, so it was a big, big shock. I had not realised that Ireland was so divided. It was all very confusing at first. I had a lot of learning to do.

“There were days when I felt very stressed and low. It was hard not knowing how to deal with the difficult times because, back home, if you are feeling a bit down you talk to your family or maybe you go to someone in your church. The stress issue is not in our vocabulary.”

Then Theo and a group of fellow refugees were invited to form a traditional African *denbe* drumming group. They gave a number of public performances, including one for President McAleese, and slowly he started to rediscover his own identity.

“I began to make connections on an individual level,” he recalls. “The process worked both ways, as people started to find out about us and stopped viewing us as just a group of black people.”

He was approached by community arts and education officer Maura Logue, with the idea of creating an intercultural theatre-in-education project. She introduced him and fellow Cameroonian Shogun Akano to director Declan Birney and together they created 'Waiting to be Irish'. It toured to both sides of the border and was performed across Donegal during Social Inclusion Week, playing to 70 adults, including Council workers, educators and youth leaders, and 295 teenagers in schools and youth projects.

“The actors and the audience discovered so much common ground,” says Theo. “We all belong to countries, which are divided - here between Britain and Ireland, Cameroon between Britain and France. It is just the people who make the difference.”

He has just co-ordinated a play, adapted from a short story, about politics in Nigeria, with a diverse cast drawn from four countries, and has several other projects on his busy agenda.

Further information from Maura Logue on: [mauraflogue@gmail.com](mailto:mauraflogue@gmail.com) or 00 353 86 404 7065.

Main Image: Theo Guessela, writer and actor, whose drama, *Waiting to be Irish*, toured on both sides of the border in the north west.

# Communications Advice from the SEUPB

Towards the end of October, the SEUPB Communications Team co-ordinated a series of workshops for all project communication leads.

The events, which took place in Broughshane, Newry, Monaghan and Letterkenny, proved very popular. Approximately 100 people in total attended.

Covering a number of issues, including general PR tools and the use of social media, as well as the best communication evaluation techniques, the workshops were designed to provide as much useful information as possible.

A number of project representatives also generously agreed to give of their time and speak at the events.

This included Mo Durkan, from Ilex, who outlined some of the more localised community relations activities she has conducted to create support for the new Peace

bridge in Londonderry, under the PEACE III Programme.

Sadie Bergin was also on hand to discuss some of the techniques she has successfully employed to inform her key stakeholders about the various healthcare projects supported under the INTERREG IVA cross-border CAWT initiative.

Additional presentations were supplied by Colleen McCauley from the Irish Football Association,

Clíodhna Geraghty from the 'Behind the Masks' project, as well as Angus Lambkin from the 'Healing through Remembering' initiative.

Several local journalists also spoke at the events and helped the communication leads to gauge what types of stories are more newsworthy than others.

Adding a lot of humour to the workshops, the journalists, including ex-BBC producer Rowan

Hand, described some of the best and worst PR approaches they had experienced over the years.

The pros and cons of social networking sites like 'facebook' and 'bebo' were also discussed and the Communications Team gave an overview of the European Commission's information and publicity requirements to be adhered to by all of the individual projects.



IMAGE The Irish Football Association's PEACE supported 'Love Football, Hate Bigotry' campaign, which was used as a discussion point during an SEUPB communications workshop



## SEUPB attends

# OPPORTUNITY EUROPE

An annual event, designed to introduce a new generation of young people to all things European, the Opportunity Europe exhibition and fair, took place at St. George's Market on 20 and 21 October.

Attracting thousands of school children from across Northern Ireland, visitors were able to sample cuisine from different parts of Europe and even take part in salsa dance lessons.

As 2009 is the European Year for Creativity and Innovation, a special zone at the exhibition was dedicated to local creative industries.

Over the two-day event SEUPB employees took turns to staff a specially designed stand and

tasked children with drawing an EU mascot, whilst also testing their general knowledge on a number of European issues.

The SEUPB also took advantage of the event to teach young people about the impact that both PEACE III and INTERREG IVA 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 bags of goodies and a budding appreciation of the role the EU plays in our day-to-day lives.



IMAGE Louise Buckley (left) and Nicola Crawford of SEUPB staffing the stand at the Opportunity Europe 2009 event

## Your **EU!** to go Digital!

As of next year, Your EU! will no longer appear in a hard copy format, but will be available as an e-zine.

From January onwards, Your **EU!** will embrace the digital age and will be sent to all of our readers via e-mail, as well as being accessible through our website.

It will contain the same type of stories, news and interesting feature articles as previous editions. However the e-zine will be presented in a more condensed, easy to read format.

We would ask all project leaders or beneficiaries who are interested in appearing in the new look magazine to speak to us in the SEUPB Communications team directly, using the email address below, or by phone on Belfast 9026 6696. As always, we promise to consider all projects for inclusion.

To ensure that we reach the same audience as in previous years, we would ask everyone who is interested in remaining on our mailing list to please send their e-mail address to us via [communications@seupb.eu](mailto:communications@seupb.eu)



# OPEN DAYS 2009



Days entitled 'Sharing the Experience of Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland.'

A number of key EU officials attended the event which was also designed to help increase membership of the Peace Network from other countries across Europe.

At the seminar, Jokin Bildarratz, President of EUDEL, the Association of Basque Municipalities, outlined the opportunities which the Network provides for the Basque country in relation to 'Community based Approaches to Peace Building.'

Andreas Ashiotis, member of the Council of Reconstruction and Resettlement in Cyprus, detailed the importance of working with children and young people to help them become ambassadors of peace and reconciliation within their own communities.

Set up to communicate the unique experience of managing, evaluating and implementing EU PEACE funding in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland,

the Peace Network is still developing and actively seeking new partners.

As well as focusing on increasing membership during 2010, the Network will aim to build links between projects on the ground in Northern Ireland and Ireland with other similar projects across Europe.

Image: Shaun Henry, SEUPB Director of the Managing Authority, at the 2009 OPEN DAYS event.



A number of representatives from the SEUPB attended this year's seventh OPEN DAYS (European Week of Cities and Regions) event in Brussels, 5 to 8 October.

Attracting delegates from across the European Union, the annual event consisted of 125 seminars, workshops, debates and exhibitions.

In total, more than 6,000 participants attended, as well as 250 partners including 213 regions/cities from 33 different countries.

As the secretariat for the Peace Network, the SEUPB also co-ordinated a seminar for the Network at the Open



## New Belfast Address for SEUPB

At the start of next year, the SEUPB's Belfast office will move from its current location in the Gasworks to new premises on Clarence Street West, Belfast.

The SEUPB will take over the seventh floor of the Clarence building, just off Bedford Street.

The move, which has been in the planning stages for a number of months, will provide much needed additional office and storage space for the Body.

Work on the internal fixtures and fittings will be completed over the winter months in time for the move at the end of January.

The postal address for the new office space will be:  
SEUPB 7th Floor  
Clarence West  
2 Clarence Street West  
Belfast BT2 7GP



# Making European Cooperation a Reality in Northern Ireland



With Finance Minister Sammy Wilson at the event in the Ramada Hotel, Belfast, are (l to r): Nicolas Forsling (Head of Secretariat, Northern Periphery Programme), Akos Szabo (Communication and Project Advisor, INTERREG IVC Programme Secretariat) and Jean-Luc Frés (Director of Programme Secretariat, Atlantic Area).

A Conference to encourage greater Northern Ireland participation in the Transnational INTERREG IVC and IVC Programmes took place in Belfast's Ramada Hotel, on 19 November.

For the 2007-13 funding period, Northern Ireland is already participating in 22 successful project

partnerships and is working with partners from 12 EU Member States and other European Countries.

Northern Ireland Finance Minister Sammy Wilson addressed those attending, saying that: "Involvement in these programmes has real economic benefits for Northern Ireland. They

involve working with partners from across Europe on economic, urban, rural, environmental, and spatial issues among others."

Mr Wilson continued: "All too often we sell ourselves short as a region but these programmes represent a significant achievement. These projects are in a whole variety of fields from innovation to environmental protection. We are not only learning from our European counterparts, but also sharing our own experiences on tackling common issues.

In many cases, European regions are specifically seeking partners from Northern Ireland to take

advantage of our experience." The Minister encouraged others to become involved and take advantage of the opportunities available in these programmes and partnerships.

He concluded: "Now is the time to get involved. There is a lot of advice available and my simple message is to take advantage of it and to take the step to put your own ideas forward. My department and the Special EU Programmes Body will continue to help local organisations search for project partners and take the next steps. With a renewed effort, I have no doubt that we can double our number of these successful projects."



## North West Europe - Annual Conference

The Annual Event of INTERREG IVC North West Europe (NWE) 2009 took place on 8th and 9th October in Rotterdam. Representatives of the member states, regions and cities and stakeholders took part in the 2-day event on territorial development covering all 4 priorities of the Programme and with a special focus on Climate change: mitigation and adaptation. More details are available on the website: [http://www.nweurope.eu/event\\_2009/](http://www.nweurope.eu/event_2009/)

Image: Pat Colgan, SEUPB Chief Executive, at the INTERREG IVC conference in Rotterdam in October.



## Local community helps regenerate North Belfast's Alexandra Park

IMAGE Viewing regeneration work in North Belfast are: Finance Minister, Sammy Wilson; Pat Colgan, Chief Executive SEUPB and Agnes Junk and Jackie Trainor, local representatives from Tigers Bay and Newington Parkside respectively.

Finance Minister, Sammy Wilson, recently visited North Belfast to view regeneration work at a local interface.

The work at Alexandra Park is being taken forward by Groundwork Northern Ireland, assisted by almost £1million of European Union PEACE III funding.

The Reconciling Communities Through Regeneration Project gives local community and statutory agencies the support needed to reduce sectarian attitudes in the interface area and cut the number of peace walls, murals, flags and painted kerb stones.

The Minister said: "As Finance Minister, I am responsible for the European Union's PEACE III Programme in Northern Ireland. Beneficiaries of PEACE III funding, such as Groundwork NI, are engaged in vital work in many interface areas.

"Today I was able to witness at first hand how people from different communities are working together to create a shared space that can be enjoyed by all, irrespective of their background.

"In helping to regenerate Alexandra Park, people living within the Tiger's Bay and Newington Parkside area of North Belfast are challenging

some of the root causes of sectarianism and in doing so, are improving the quality of life for themselves and future generations.

"This project allows local communities to have a real say in the future of their areas. Groundwork NI has ensured that residents in this part of the city have been fully involved in shaping the future of their own community.

"The project is also designed to ensure that the momentum of cross-community engagement will continue long after its completion, ensuring that lasting benefits will outlive the PEACE III Programme."

Sylvia Gordon, Director of Groundwork NI commented: "We are very grateful for all of the support and financial assistance we have received in helping this project to become a reality. Designed to transform specific areas that have been badly affected by conflict, the Reconciling Communities Through Regeneration project will help reduce or eliminate symbols of sectarian aggression. This is key if we are to support a culture of mutual respect and tolerance."

For further information contact Richard Rogers at Groundwork: +44 (0)28 9074 9494



## Community workers Harness Equality for a Lasting Peace

One cross-border project in the north west is working to develop equality-focused peace networks locally for community workers and deliver a range of equality-related training, workshops and information and services.

The Harnessing Equality for Lasting Peace (HELP) project is run by the Donegal Community Workers Co-operative (CWC). The project is funded under Theme 1.2 of the European Union's PEACE III Programme, which is managed for the Special EU Programmes Body

by the Community Relations Council/Pobal Consortium.

"HELP builds upon work that we piloted under the previous PEACE Programmes," explains Angela Holohan, CWC Project Co-ordinator. "It aims to sustain the current situation of peace through the development of equality focused peace networks and the promotion of quality community work as a means of intervention for lasting social change."

The project has delivered a series of workshops in the Border Region including an introductory session on 'Towards Standards in

Community Work' and 'Ending Hate in Our Communities'. To coincide with the official launch of the project on 16 September in Letterkenny, the Donegal CWC also hosted the first in a series of seminars, entitled, 'Equality - the Roadmap to Peace & Development Seminar'. The project also provides information and support to over 250 groups working in the area of peace and reconciliation in the north west.

Two peace networks are now established: in Letterkenny and Londonderry/Derry with a third planned in south Donegal. "Our

peace networks are made up of small groups of community workers who come together to discuss issues relating to local experiences of sectarianism and racism, within an equality framework. The aim is to aid peace building and reconciliation work in the region," Angela explained.

Responding to a high level of demand for related community work training courses, the project is currently also delivering three courses in tandem. These FETAC accredited courses include a specially developed module on equality and peace building.

A community worker on the course, Joleen Kuyper, commented: "It is marvellous to be offered the opportunity to study and receive a recognised qualification in the field of community development work - to learn about its history, theoretical aspects such as equality-based thinking and potential for peace-building, as well as the practicalities of working in the sector from experienced professionals in the field".

For further information visit: [www.cwc.ie/cwc/donegal-cwc.html](http://www.cwc.ie/cwc/donegal-cwc.html)

**IMAGE** Angela Holohan and Francine Blache-Breen of the Donegal Community Workers Co-operative are delivering services to community workers through the HELP project.



# Renewable Energy for Rural Areas

In common with many other European regions, rural communities in Northern Ireland are facing substantial challenges as a result of their dependence on fossil energy.

With the increase in global warming, all regions in Europe are required to reduce their dependence on imported fuel and make a significant commitment to the use of renewable energy sources, which also generate fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

The Ulster Business School at the University of Ulster is a partner in a collaborative bid, which has secured substantial European Union funding under the Northern Periphery Programme. The project's Lead Partner is the North Karelia University of Applied Sciences in Finland and other partners include: Joensuu Regional Development Company JOSEK, University of Oulu, International Resource and Recycling Institute, with Scotland and Irish partners including WESTBIC, Western Regional Authority and Mayo County Council.

The driving forces behind the project in University of Ulster are Derek Bond, Dr Norry McBride and Dr Elaine Ramsey, all from the Department of Business, Retail and Financial Services at the University's Coleraine campus.

The project will extend over a three-year period, during which small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas will be encouraged to develop innovative small-scale renewable energy solutions within their business environments.

The Micro waste energy business - Micro Energy to Rural Enterprise (MicrE) Project - seeks to enhance the capacity for self-sustaining business and organisational life within the rural Northern Periphery regions.

The long-term aim is to develop a service, which will use waste technologies for small-scale renewable energy generation, available to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on a scale that is both viable and economically feasible.

The MicrE Project will promote competitiveness by increasing the capacity for innovation and networking in rural and peripheral areas and will seek to strengthen the synergies between environmental protection and growth in these areas.

"SMEs in rural communities will benefit directly in their everyday operations as a result of this ambitious project," says Dr McBride.

"The University of Ulster is delighted to be involved in this collaboration research project with its European partners. Any progress made towards tackling global warming and at the same time reducing energy costs will undoubtedly benefit the environment we all live in."

For further details contact Dr Norry McBride, Ulster Business School, University of Ulster. T: 07850919217 or n.mcbride@ulster.ac.uk

The SEUPB acts as the Regional Contact Point for the Northern Periphery Programme. For more information, please contact Teresa Lennon, INTERREG IVB and IVC Programme Manager, [teresa.lennon@seupb.eu](mailto:teresa.lennon@seupb.eu)

IMAGE (l-r): Dr Norry McBride, Derek Bond and Dr Elaine Ramsey from the Ulster Business School launch the Micro Energy to Rural Enterprise project.

# IRISH PEACE CENTRES

The Irish Peace Centres project aims to extend and embed reconciliation within and between communities by creating a strategic consortium to deliver a wide range of activities. It is funded under the European Union PEACE III Programme, managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by Co-operation Ireland.



The Irish Peace Centres (IPC) is a consortium of four peace-building organisations: Co-operation Ireland; Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation; the Donegal Peace Centre at An Teach Ban, and the Corrymeela Community.

IPC has recently hosted two major events as part of this project's remit to cultivate and sustain positive relationships at a local level across the region and across traditional sectarian and social divides.

In September, Canadian Professor Kenneth Bush, a renowned expert in peace and conflict assessment, was guest speaker at the *Aid for Peace Seminar: Peace and Conflict Impact Assessments* in Belfast. He is currently based at INCORE, Magee Campus and the United Nations University in Geneva.

Professor Bush discussed his experience of peace and conflict impact assessments and his depth of knowledge on the subject helped participants to learn from his experience,

examine relevant issues and debate new ideas on the subject.

As a result, he has adapted his standard *Handbook for Applying Peace and Reconciliation Impact Assessment* to the PEACE III Programme. "This is an invaluable resource for all PEACE III funded projects and the book is available from the IPC website," said IPC Research Co-ordinator Paddy Logue.

Earlier in the year, 27 Combatants for Peace (former Israeli soldiers and former Palestinian prisoners) visited the Donegal Peace Centre for a unique and safe opportunity to meet together, both in single identity and in plenary sessions, and to interact with and share learning with Irish

peace practitioners on both a personal and political level.

"Many members of the wide IPC peace-building network who met the Israelis and Palestinians were inspired by their courage and commitment," Paddy Logue commented. "While we in Ireland are building peace in a time of agreement, the visitors are making common cause in support of peace in a time of war."

A report on the visit is available from [www.irishpeacecentres.org](http://www.irishpeacecentres.org)

**IMAGES** Chen Alon, former tank commander in the Israeli army and now the Israeli Co-ordinator of Combatants for Peace, with Nour Shehadah (right), former prisoner and now the Palestinian Co-ordinator of Combatants for Peace, introducing a joint open air Theatre of the Oppressed performance in the village of Sufa in the West Bank. The woman on the left is the Hebrew/Arabic translator. **INSET** Professor Kenneth Bush (4th from left) with IPC representatives at the Belfast seminar. Middle East visitors on their trip to the Donegal Peace Centre in April.



**Ely Centre's**  
new Youth Committee

“ I knew a youth committee was being set up and wanted to take part. Now we play a role in suggesting courses and activities we feel other young people will really want, so that the Ely Centre can attract more users in to use its facilities and make best use of its PEACE III money. ”

**Jake Robinson, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh**

**The Ely Centre in Enniskillen first opened its doors in 2002 as a result of the determination of Jim Dickson, a victim of the Enniskillen bomb, to create a safe place offering support to victims and survivors of the Troubles and, in particular, to the new, younger generation growing up.**

The Centre's youth initiative got underway in 2007, with PEACE II support, offering a range of courses, plus drop-in facilities, to young people, aged 16-25.

With new funding from the European Union's PEACE III Programme, managed for the SEUPB by the CRC/Pobal Consortium, the Centre is expanding its youth project activities.

One new initiative that its youth team, Kellie Beacom and Olive Bustard, are delighted to see underway, is the creation of its youth committee. Its official launch will be celebrated in December.

Eighteen-year-old Jake Robinson, who lives near Brookeborough outside Enniskillen, is one of around a dozen young people who now sit on the youth committee.

"I've been involved with the Ely Centre for about two to three years," Jake explains.

"I've taken guitar lessons at the centre, which were really good, and I think there's going to be a new counselling course offered, which I'd be very interested in doing. There's also social trips and outings arranged, though, so far, I've only been able to go on one - go-karting - which was a lot of fun.

"When I was experiencing some family problems the Centre was a great place to hang out. If you have a problem you know you can always drop in for a chat with Kellie or Olive."

Jake is currently studying for an NVQ in Media at the local South West College. With an interest in acting, he hopes to go on to study drama at Liverpool University.

"Nowadays, I tend to drop in to the Centre a couple of afternoons a week after college, or during my lunch break. As well as being a good place to meet friends, there's a computer room that I can use to find out more about jobs I'd be interested in, or courses to apply for."

The Centre recently reopened its Youth Resource Centre after a 'make over' and its facilities include tv with full SKY package, pool table and table tennis table, kitchen facilities, comfy sofas and internet access.

In terms of the youth committee, that meets every two weeks, Jake comments: "I first went along with Josh from my college. So far, the committee is still open to anyone who wants to join. We are all taking a turn at the roles of chair and note taker. I was chair of the first meeting and enjoyed it.

"It's really up to us to decide how to structure it. We are running the committee independently and plan to go back to Olive and Kellie to report on our views and give our own suggestions on the content and direction of future youth programme activities. We'll all learn new skills out of being involved in the committee."

Youth committee members are being offered full training and support from the project's youth team, which will also entail trips to visit other youth initiatives and venues of interest, including Parliament Buildings in Belfast.

For further information contact Kellie or Olive at the Ely Centre: 00 +44 28 66 320977

**Main Image:** Jake Robinson attending a youth committee meeting at the Ely Centre, Enniskillen.



**IMAGE** Karen McCartney, co-ordinator of the People's History initiative with exhibition work gathered by the Silver Threads Senior Citizen group on their lives in the 1930s and 1940s

## The Past Remembered

The People's History Initiative is an adult education initiative, which focuses on people's interest in and passion for learning about their history, through telling and sharing their own stories and experiences.

It began ten years ago and was developed out of the citizenship curriculum run by the Ulster People's College.

The latest phase has been funded through the European Union's PEACE III Programme and managed for the SEUPB by the Pobal/Community Relations Council Consortium.

Its aims are to help people with different perspectives and backgrounds to relate positively to one another, to understand and deal constructively with events of the past in order to plan for the future, to gain a better understanding of their shared history and develop a cross-community network within which dialogue can flourish.

Participants may sign up for a number of courses, lectures and workshops. Many come from areas of the city, which have

been adversely affected by conflict and have high areas of multiple deprivation. They include educationally disadvantaged people, those on a low income, the unemployed, women returners, older people, ex-prisoners and minority ethnic communities.

The 'Life In Our Times' exhibition is just one of a number of projects, which has sprung from the Initiative. The Silver Threads Senior Citizens Group in north Belfast contributed a treasure trove of rare and precious photographs, dating back many years. Together they form a vivid archive of what life was like in their communities during the 1930s and 1940s.

Among the many evocative photographs on display is one which retired schoolteacher Kathleen Regan unearthed of herself as a nine year-old girl, with members of her family, at a house near the County Derry town of Toome. For their own safety, they had been evacuated there following the Belfast Blitz of 1941. Other members of the group also rummaged in their family archives and uncovered precious, long-forgotten memories.

"The Silver Threads group collected a wealth of information, experiences and perspectives which will be a very valuable resource in the community," says Ulster People's College lecturer and project co-ordinator Karen McCartney.

"And following the launch of the exhibition by the Survivors of Trauma group, several requests came in for it to be toured around various venues in north Belfast."

For further information, contact Karen McCartney at the Ulster People's College on: [karen@upclearn.org](mailto:karen@upclearn.org)



## Offshore renewable energy sources investigated

Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland are joining forces to commission an extensive feasibility study into offshore renewable energy projects, harnessing the power of wind, waves and tides.

The Scottish Government is the lead partner in the ISLES (Irish Scottish Links on Energy Study) Project, together with the Northern Ireland Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Irish Department of Energy, Communications and Natural Resources. The project has received funding from the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme, managed by the Scottish Government for the SEUPB.

It will look at the feasibility of the construction of an offshore electricity transmission network linking these potential offshore sites.

The development of an undersea grid would provide economic, environmental and technical opportunities to encourage renewable electricity generation and contribute to meeting renewable energy and climate change targets.

For further information contact: Carol Anne Hackland on 0300 244 1080 or [carolanne.hackland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:carolanne.hackland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)



## LEARNING HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES

**A project, which places the history of the island of Ireland and its relationship with Britain into a global context, is coming to the end of its first year.**

The first stage of 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' focuses on the history of the North and its relationships with Ireland and Britain, from Celtic times through to the Troubles and the present day. It encourages participants to separate fact from myth, identify common ground and share their

experiences in a neutral space. The second stage considers the Irish history of migration and the difficulties encountered in settling in other countries. In the process, similarities emerge with those of the country's new immigrant communities and an understanding of their situation begins to form.

The project, which is part of the Forward Learning initiative, has received funding from the European Union's PEACE III Programme, managed for the SEUPB by the Pobal/CRC

Consortium.

In moving towards an understanding of the views of 'the other side', the groups attend a series of learning sessions, discussions and talks by guest lecturers and take part in cultural trips to sites of historic interest.

Further information from Sheena Clegg on: +44 (0)28 9031 9111 or [sheenaclegg@transitiontraining.org](mailto:sheenaclegg@transitiontraining.org)

**IMAGE** A group of participants in 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' on an educational visit to the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh.



# KITE

## Knowledge and Innovation Transfer in Engineering

IMAGE Alan McAfee at Ballymena NRC, one of the three colleges involved in the KITE project.

A joint initiative between three higher education institutions will help local businesses in the manufacturing sector to access cutting-edge robotics and automation technology, helping them to achieve competitive advantage and productivity increases. Part-financed by the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, the KITE project started in January 2009 and should be completed by January 2012.

The three colleges involved are:

- Institute of Technology, Sligo;
- Northern Regional College (NRC), Ballymena;
- Ayr College, Scotland.

"The overall aim of the project is 'to increase the skills, capacity, knowledge and levels of technology adoption of engineering and manufacturing industries in the INTERREG region,'" Project Manager, Alan McAfee of NRC explains. "The college partners will help achieve this by developing and then rolling out industry specific training materials and by equipping training and development laboratories for use by industry and third-level students. This should ensure the long term sustainability of the key manufacturing and engineering industries in the region."

The KITE project is building on the previous work (supported by INTERREG IIIA funding)

undertaken by IT Sligo and NRC Ballymena to equip their training laboratories with robotics and state of the art equipment.

Each of the project partners has a long tradition of working with local industry to develop and implement specific training solutions. They have the expertise to assist companies in resolving particular technical problems.

"This minimises company costs for training, as machines do not have to be taken out of production for training purposes. In addition, the in-house expertise of colleges is available to companies and their staff. With increasing globalisation and competition from lower cost economies, the manufacturing and engineering sectors are facing increasing competitive pressures. One of the ways to counteract these is to increase productivity and lower costs through automation, robotics and application of the latest technologies," Alan said.

Each of the three colleges has a key role to play in identifying local emerging technological trends and providing specific industry based training to help businesses in their area develop and increase productivity and competitiveness.

For further details contact Project Manager, Alan McAfee, [alan.mcafee@nrc.ac.uk](mailto:alan.mcafee@nrc.ac.uk)

# Supporting isolated, single men in Leitrim



One project, helping to meet the County Leitrim PEACE III Partnership Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan aim of building community capacity and positive relationships, is providing a range of initiatives to support single, isolated men throughout the County. The North Leitrim Men's Group and the North West Simon Community are working in partnership to deliver it.

Claire McTernan of North West Simon Community explains the background to the project. The North Leitrim Men's Group published a research report two years ago, 'Men on the Border', and had been lobbying to raise awareness of the issues raised by the report and gain funding support to implement some initiatives that would begin to address them. The report found that issues affecting single, isolated men included: isolation, poor mental and physical health, poor housing, risk of suicide, high levels of alcoholism, declining incomes from farming, and a lack of transport to overcome the isolation.

"Meantime, North West Simon Community was established to prevent homelessness in counties Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal. Through our work in Leitrim, it was evident that single men were under-represented and that the housing and daily living conditions of many of the men were very poor.

"When the opportunity came to tender for the PEACE III Project, North West Simon Community approached North Leitrim Men's Group with a view to completing a joint tender which was successful," Claire said.

Project support is currently being delivered to around 75 men, through two groups that cover the north and south of the County.

The range of support initiatives offered include:

- Outreach support work with men in their homes to encourage them to take part.
- The supply of information, for example, on benefit entitlement and group social activities.

- Training opportunities, tailored to the needs of the men.

- Peace and reconciliation work, initially on an individual basis, with group workshops planned to follow.

- Cross-border networking opportunities.

The North Leitrim Men's Group centre is used for a range of project activities. On Fridays, for example, a health check service is available, offering personal health checks and information on health and personal care issues and an opportunity to meet others. Transport is arranged for those attending.

For further information contact: Claire McTiernan. Tel +353 (0)71-9855005

IMAGE Brian McGinley (right), a participant on a project to support isolated men in Leitrim, has a health check with nurse Gerry Sheridan.