

The PEACE PLUS Programme- Inclusivity

The PEACE PLUS Programme is a €1bn investment in the social, economic and environmental development of Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

Building upon the success of previous cross border PEACE and INTERREG Programmes, it will contribute to a more peaceful, prosperous and stable society, leaving a lasting legacy across the Programme area. This will be achieved by funding activities that promote peace and reconciliation across six themes, which encompass 21 individual investment areas as outlined below. These have been developed to optimise engagement and participation across all ages, communities and sectors.



A public consultation regarding the potential PEACE PLUS Programme design was held in 2019-20. In response to the views expressed, the SEUPB has developed the Programme to ensure multiple opportunities for engagement by **Under-represented Groups** including but this is not an exhaustive list: women; older people; minority communities (including migrants and refugees and those from the Traveller Community); those living with disability; those with issues arising from the legacy of the conflict including ex prisoners and security service personnel; members of the Traveller Community; and those from the LGBT community. As such, inclusivity is a cross cutting theme across the entire PEACE PLUS Programme and reflected within the design of multiple investment areas as outlined in subsequent sections.

We now look forward to receiving your views on the investment areas proposed as part of the Statutory Public Consultation process, and wish to outline all the areas across the Programme which may provide opportunity for you to get involved, and initiate the preparation of potential projects.

Opportunities for Engagement by Under-Represented Groups in PEACE PLUS

Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities	
1.1 Co-designed Local Community PEACE Action Plans (€90m)	This investment area will see the creation of Local PEACE PLUS Partnerships across all parts of the Programme area, which will develop Co-designed PEACE Action Plans. These plans must be co-designed with the local community, a process which the SEUPB will support. This structure will enable and empower council led local community partnerships, to self-determine and deliver priority projects on a cross community basis. It will provide opportunities to develop local projects, which will span a range of areas including: children and young people; health and wellbeing; community regeneration; education and skills; social innovation and social enterprise. Associated projects will incorporate a focus upon supporting traditionally under-represented groups.
1.2 Empowering Communities (€30m)	This investment area will support the delivery of people-to-people projects by local Community & Voluntary Sector organisations. Through the provision of a small grants programme, it will enable participation by smaller organisations who can often be best placed to affect real change and embed peace at local community level. Organisations can use any medium which will result in improved cross community relations. Projects will facilitate collaborative approaches by the statutory, community and voluntary sectors, designed to contribute to the creation of strengthened and more cohesive local communities and engage all members of our society, including under-represented groups.

1.3 Building Positive Relations (€30m)	<p>This investment area will provide support for projects which transcend local boundaries and have the potential to achieve significant peace and reconciliation at the Programme area level. The aim of these projects will be to build and sustain relationships between citizens from all communities, across a wide range of sectors. The focus will be on projects which increase civic participation, including those which increase participation in public and political life by minority groups and women, to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society.</p>
1.4 Re-Imaging Communities (€60m)	<p>This investment area will offer the potential to develop new and transform existing spaces into shared environments for use by all communities. It will provide organisations with the opportunity to develop and manage innovative spaces, which contribute to improved peace and reconciliation. These shared spaces will span a range of thematic areas including: children and young people; health and wellbeing; social enterprise, education; arts and culture; tourism and heritage; and sport and recreation. The Programme will contribute to a reduction in the level of social isolation experienced by minority and marginalised groups, including newcomer communities.</p>
Theme 2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation	
2.3 Programme Area Skills Development (€35m)	<p>This investment area will support area-based approaches to address emerging skills requirements. The Programme will incorporate supports which address the barriers to participation in skills development programmes, particularly by marginalised and disadvantaged groups. These barriers include affordability; childcare and caring responsibilities; language skills; and disability access. Programmes will be designed to improve the working conditions and employment prospects of minority groups.</p>
Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People	
3.1 Shared Learning Together Programme (€45m)	<p>This investment area will be a further development of the PEACE IV cross community and cross border school partnership model. It will provide increased opportunity for Community & Voluntary Sector involvement through the incorporation of non-curricular youth to youth cross community and cross border projects. It will also encompass youth worker collaboration and development. The incorporation of disadvantaged education settings will result in improved educational outcomes and increased social inclusion within minority communities.</p>
3.2 PEACE PLUS Youth Programme (€45m)	<p>This investment area will build the capacity of marginalised and disadvantaged young people within the Programme area, while enhancing their employability. Supported projects will incorporate the 'one good adult' approach. The Programme will incorporate interventions designed to address the barriers to participation within under-represented groups including childcare; transport (particularly for those based in rural areas); language support; and disability access; and incorporation of gender specific approaches as appropriate.</p>
3.3 Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing (€20m)	<p>This investment area will increase the number of resilient young people within the Programme area, with the capacity to be in control of their own lives and make a positive contribution within their communities. It will focus on the social, emotional and environmental wellbeing of young people. It will target participants from under-represented groups including: the LGBT community; minority communities (including migrants and refugees and those from the Traveller Community); and those living with disability.</p>
Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities	
4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care (€80m)	<p>This investment area will support the development of innovative community-based health care interventions, which complement statutory provision (including social enterprise models). It will incorporate a focus upon under-represented groups, such as older people and those with issues arising from the legacy of the Conflict, including addiction issues.</p>
4.2 Rural Regeneration and Social	<p>This investment area will fund a range of initiatives designed to redress the level of social isolation which can be prevalent within rural areas for people of all ages. It will support social, economic and environmental projects, which contribute to the creation of healthy communities in rural areas. This</p>

Inclusion (€50m)	will include increased delivery of family and community services. This will include those which target under-represented groups within rural communities, such as older people and those living with disability.
4.3 Victims & Survivors (€25m)	This investment area will encompass a range of supports for a specific under-represented group, Victims and Survivors, which experiences specific issues arising from the legacy of the conflict.
Theme 6: Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration	
6.2 Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens (€20m)	This investment will finance smaller projects that forge and maintain social and civic cohesion on a cross border basis. It will provide opportunities for cross border initiatives which target under-represented groups including: women; older people; minority communities (including migrants and refugees and those from the Traveller Community); the LGBT community; and those living with disability.