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1. STRATEGY FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNION STRATEGY FOR SMART, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

1.1 Strategy for the cooperation programme's contribution to the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion

1.1.1 Description of the cooperation programme's strategy for contributing to the delivery of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Introduction

The EU PEACE Programmes are distinctive initiatives of the European Union to support peace and reconciliation in the programme area. The first PEACE Programme was a direct result of the European Union's desire to make a positive response to the opportunities presented by developments in the Northern Ireland peace process during 1994, especially the announcements of the cessation of violence by the main republican and loyalist paramilitary organisations. The cessation came after 25 years of violent conflict during which over 3,500 were killed and 37,000 injured.

There has been significant progress in the region since the Good Friday/ Belfast Agreement (1998) and St Andrews Agreement (2006). However divisions between communities are still very evident with low levels of trust and high levels of residential and social segregation. Issues around the expression of identity often result in community tensions and increased polarisation. Within this context there still remains a real need for the region to address a number of key issues in order to support the overall peace process. These include more efforts to develop and deepen reconciliation between divided communities; increase tolerance and respect to reduce the levels of sectarianism and racism; promote increased community cohesion; and address the legacy of the past.

As the peace process has evolved and matured the EU's PEACE Programmes have played an important role in reinforcing progress towards a more peaceful and stable society. Whilst significant progress has been made, there remains a need to improve cross-community relations and where possible further integrate divided communities. The legislative framework for 2014-2020 provides the opportunity for continued EU support to meet the current needs of the region.

In particular the EU regulation for ERDF support under the European Territorial Cooperation goal notes: "In the case of the PEACE cross-border programme between Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland in support of peace and reconciliation the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) should also contribute to promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities." The specific and distinctive nature of the PEACE Programme is recognised by making provision for certain derogations from the general rules that apply to cross-border cooperation programmes [1].

In addition, the European Parliament in November 2014 passed a resolution on the Northern Ireland peace process that underlines the urgent need to encourage further reconciliation, and help stimulate greater economic and social development in order to consolidate the peace process. In this regard the resolution notes the support of Parliament for the PEACE Programme to tackle these priority issues in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland, to the benefit of all, north and south.

As part of the preparation of this PEACE Programme, the SEUPB conducted an extensive public consultation within the eligible area in 2012 and again in 2014. In total 25 public events were held which were attended by over 1500 participants. Direct consultations were also held in the eligible jurisdictions with government departments, business, rural communities, agriculture, community and voluntary sectors, along with trade union representatives and public sector organisations.

The purpose of the first consultation held in 2012 was to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to express their views on the priorities that should inform the preparation of a new PEACE Programme. A summary of the responses received to this initial consultation was published [2] in February 2013 and this facilitated an additional public consultation, which was held in June 2014.

The results of the consultations confirmed the relevance of Thematic Objective 9, Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination as the focus of the PEACE Programme as indicated in the Regulations [3]. The views expressed were used to inform the drafting of the PEACE Cooperation Programme document.

A comprehensive summary of the public consultations held in 2012 and in 2014 is provided in Annex 1 of this document.

Feedback during the consultations confirmed that there was strong support for the continuation of the legacy created by PEACE III projects that promoted peace and reconciliation through:

- the creation of shared spaces and removal of physical barriers between communities,
- projects that promoted peace and reconciliation through engagement and involvement of young people,
- enhanced social inclusion, especially in those areas most affected by the conflict,
- the promotion of shared education.

The development of the PEACE IV Cooperation Programme has also been informed by the European Union's key policy instruments, namely the Europe 2020 Strategy

(EU2020), the Common Strategic Framework and the European Commission's position papers on the UK and Ireland.

EU2020 outlines a ten year growth strategy centred on five measurable targets to be achieved by 2020. The achievement of these five targets will be based on plans for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

This PEACE Cooperation Programme recognises that peace and community cohesion are essential prerequisites for building a competitive economy. In particular the programme will impact on the most socially and economically excluded people through interventions in good relations, training and education.

The following strategic areas of investment have been prioritised for 2014-2020. These areas are based on the results of the public consultation exercise, the lessons learnt during PEACE III and additional research of the needs of the programme area [4].

- Shared Education
 - The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitudes to contribute to a cohesive society.
- Children & Young People
 - Enhancing the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society. In particular, young people who are most disadvantaged and hardest to reach will benefit from the investment.
- Shared Spaces & Services
 - The creation of a more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services.
- Building Positive Relations
 - The promotion of positive relations at a local and a regional level, characterised by respect, and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

Common to all areas of investment, projects will be selected based on their contribution and their alignment with the Programme's specific objectives, results and outputs.

Background

Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland have a combined population of 2,319,814. The population of Northern Ireland is 1,811,000 and the population of the Border Region is 508,814. This represents an increase of 7.5% in Northern Ireland and 9% in the Border Region since 2006[5].

Northern Ireland is the only part of the United Kingdom with a land boundary with another EU Member State. The history of the region and the relationship between the two parts of the island has resulted in the border becoming a barrier to economic and social development. Traditionally, the population of Northern Ireland has been regarded as consisting of two distinct and often separate identities of Catholics/Nationalists and Protestants/Unionists. The effects of the troubles/conflict on the Border Region of Ireland have been pronounced; the border towns in particular saw widespread division and disturbance which has continued to leave their mark.

In response to the opportunities presented by the ceasefires in 1994, the European Union funded the first PEACE Programme 1995 – 1999 (PEACE I). This programme was implemented as a Community Initiative. Its stated aim was *“to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and to promote reconciliation by increasing economic development and employment, promoting urban and rural regeneration, developing cross-border co-operation and extending social inclusion.”* PEACE I provided a fund of €500 million from the European Commission and a further €167 million from the British and Irish Governments.

While the PEACE I Programme was being implemented, multi-party talks led to the signing of the Good Friday / Belfast Agreement in April 1998. This agreement provided for devolved powers to Northern Ireland and introduced new institutional arrangements for the governance and structure of the Northern Ireland Executive, the development of North-South cooperation and the development of East-West relationships between Ireland and the United Kingdom. The first elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly were held in June 1998 and the first Northern Ireland Executive took office in December 1999. The Assembly and the Executive were suspended from October 2002 through to May 2007, due to ongoing political differences between the main parties. During this period, multi-party talks culminated in the St Andrews Agreement, which provided a framework for progress based on the principles of power-sharing and support for the policing and criminal justice systems.

Throughout this challenging period in the region’s history, the European Union provided extensive support to address the economic and social development challenges through three further Programmes - PEACE II (2000-2004), PEACE II Extension (2004-2006) and PEACE III (2007-2013). The combined value of these Programmes (PEACE I, PEACE II and PEACE III) amounts to €1995 million (€1334 million from the European Commission and €661 million from the British and Irish Governments).

Political, Social and Economic Developments – 2007 to 2013

Much progress has been made in the normalisation of politics in Northern Ireland during this period. Following the re-instatement of the Northern Ireland Executive and the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2007, a new Department of Justice was created in 2010 as

part of the devolution of justice and policing powers agreed in the Hillsborough Agreement (February 2010). Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly were held in 2007 and again in 2011. The restored Northern Ireland Executive is now into its second period of Government. New elections are due to be held in 2016.

The current Programme for Government, finalised in April 2012, set out 82 commitments within five key priorities for government. One key commitment relates to the establishment of the Delivery of Social Change framework, which set out a new approach to tackling poverty and social exclusion. The Delivery of Social Change framework established five priorities for the current mandate including, critically, early years interventions and building a strong and shared community.

The development of an agreed policy on community relations has continued to present a challenge to the Northern Ireland administration. The first attempt to do this was published in a document entitled "A Shared Future: Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland, (2005)".

This policy document failed to gain all party support in the re-convened Assembly in 2007. This was followed in 2010 by the creation of a draft policy entitled "Cohesion, Sharing & Integration (2010)", which also failed to gain public and cross party political support.

Considerable progress in this area was made in 2013 with the publication by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) of the strategy entitled "Together: Building a United Community (2013)". The foreword to the document states that the strategy reflects the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. The strategy addresses issues such as education, housing, sport, youth, volunteering and interface barriers and is focused on four priority areas of action, namely:

- Children & Young People;
- Shared Community;
- Safe Community;
- Cultural Expression.

This strategy also provides a strong Northern Ireland policy context for the development of the PEACE IV Programme.

The Irish Government's Reconciliation and Anti-Sectarianism Funds have been administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs since 1982 and the level of resources were substantially increased following the Good Friday Agreement as part of the Irish

Government's commitment to "positively consider the case for enhanced financial assistance for the work of reconciliation". In 2014, the budget for Reconciliation and Anti-Sectarianism Funds stands at €2.7million from which approximately 150 grants are made each year, mainly to community and voluntary groups. A new strategy for the fund was published in summer 2014 which confirms the complementarity of the work of the fund with that of the PEACE IV Programme.

Two thematic pillars for the fund have been identified. These are: Repairing of those issues which lead to division, conflict, and barriers to a deeply reconciled and peaceful society; and Building a strong civil society that encompasses all communities, through the continued implementation of the Agreements and promoting a rights-based society, political stability and respect for all.

Priority areas for the funding include projects which:

- specifically target sectarianism, innovative pilot projects which have the potential to be replicated on a wider scale and with broader impact;
- encourage North-South links which build sustainable relationships and connections;
- target hard to reach and marginalised communities and those not normally involved in the peace-building process;
- engage young people and children, to promote inter-community and inter-generational links and reduce segregation;
- contribute to the aims of the UN security council resolution 1325 which aims to develop and deepen the role of women in peace-building and civic and political life;
- develop and deepen Anglo-Irish relationships.

The reform of local government in Northern Ireland has also presented challenges for the Northern Ireland Executive. The intention of this reform, which began in 2002, was to replace the 26 districts created in 1973 with a smaller number of larger councils. The Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government, published in 2012, contained a commitment to implement this reform.

The first elections to these eleven new councils took place on 22 May 2014. A transition period for the implementation of the reforms was put in place. The new structures entered into full force in April 2015. The reform includes enhanced roles for the new councils in a number of areas, including community planning and community well-being. These are important developments that will impact on the delivery mechanisms for PEACE IV.

The PEACE Programmes have traditionally worked closely with local government structures in Northern Ireland and in the Border Region of Ireland to build bottom-up mechanisms for the implementation of the activities of the programmes. These reforms will contribute towards a continuation of this strategy for the PEACE IV Programme.

In 2012 the Irish Government published a policy document entitled "*Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government*", aimed at introducing a programme of local government reforms which take account of the prevailing economic climate and addressed the need for improved efficiency. These reforms are of particular relevance to the PEACE Programme for 2014-2020, as local government will have a stronger role in oversight and planning of local and community development programmes.

The recent economic downturn has had a profound impact on policy makers, officials and citizens in Ireland. In November 2010, the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank (the Troika) agreed an €85 billion rescue deal with the Irish Government. The programme that accompanied this rescue deal involved a series of budgets containing austerity measures aimed at restoring stability to the economy. A new government took office in Ireland in 2011. Ireland emerged from this programme on 15 December 2013 having achieved all of the targets agreed with the Troika.

The economic crisis in Ireland has led to significant levels of unemployment and economic hardship. The Border Region has been disproportionately affected by the downturn, particularly amongst young people (up to the age of 25), where the region has 31.9% youth unemployment compared to a national average of 27.6%. In addition, the reductions in public expenditure brought about as a result of the implementation of the programme agreed with the Troika, has resulted in pressure on the budgets of local authorities and central government departments. This has presented challenges for the implementation of the PEACE III Programme in the Border Region. The cooperation of both government departments and local authorities has ensured that these challenges have been met with positive outcomes to date.

Despite the economic challenges in the region, a number of significant capital investment initiatives have taken place during this period, which reflect confidence in the future growth prospects of the region. The opening in 2011 of the PEACE Bridge in Derry/Londonderry, funded by the PEACE III Programme, has signalled a transformation of the city and represents a strong commitment to addressing the legacy of division.

Similarly, the development of the Titanic Quarter in Belfast is a strong statement of confidence in the emerging tourism market for foreign and domestic visitors. The positive images of Northern Ireland as a growing and vibrant economy were further reinforced through the successful hosting of the summit of G8 leaders in Fermanagh in 2013, the designation of Derry/Londonderry as the "2013 UK City of Culture" and by the successful hosting of the World Police and Fire Games in Northern Ireland in the same year.

One of the most significant symbols of positive change in the region was the visit by Queen Elizabeth II to Ireland in 2011. This was the first visit by a British monarch since 1911 and is significant in building a renewed relationship between the UK and Ireland. The visit incorporated sites of national significance in Dublin, such as the Garden of Remembrance and Croke Park.

Queen Elizabeth II also visited the National War Memorial Gardens, dedicated to the memory of the 49,000 Irish citizens who died fighting with the British Army during the First World War and delivered a widely praised speech on the history of relations between the two countries.

In 2014 Queen Elizabeth II hosted a four day state visit of the Irish President Michael D Higgins to the United Kingdom mainland. The itinerary included a Northern Ireland themed reception in recognition of the shared interests of both States in peace and reconciliation in the region. President Higgins addressed Members of the Houses of Parliament and met a wide range of dignitaries and representatives from the Irish Community in Britain. A particular theme of the visit was acknowledging the many close bonds between the States and how Northern Ireland remains at the heart of that relationship.

The British and Irish Governments are working with common purpose to ensure that there is a stable, inclusive and lasting peace. Also acknowledged is the significant and positive role that is played by the EU Member States and the European institutions.

Alongside these positive developments, recognition of the continued division within and between the communities in the programme area must be acknowledged. The killing of police constables in 2009 and 2011 and the killing of a prison officer in 2012, together with the killing of two British soldiers in 2009 provide stark evidence of the continued threat posed by dissident republican groups opposed to the peace process. Incidents in Belfast city centre in December 2013 involving explosive and incendiary devices provide evidence of the continued threat that exists to the lives of citizens in the region and to the normalisation of economic and social activity.

During 2012, statistics show [6] that loyalist violence was at its lowest level for eight years. Despite this however, there continues to be a high degree of unrest and discontent as evidenced by the civic disturbances and demonstrations during 2012 and 2013 related to the issues of flags, emblems and parades. These instances of civic unrest followed on from the decision by Belfast City Council in December 2012 to restrict the flying of the Union Flag to designated days. The depth and extent of support for these disruptive and economically costly street protests is an indication of the sense of political, social and economic exclusion felt in some sections of the Protestant community.

Acknowledging and dealing with the legacy of the past continues to be a major challenge within the programme area. There are many voices calling for various forms of truth recovery, justice, acknowledgement, and reconciliation, such as the Consultative Group on the Past (Eames / Bradley Report) reported in 2009[7].

The recommendations contained in this report failed to gain the support of all sections of the community. In the absence of any agreed policy in this area, approaches to dealing with the past continue to be highly contentious. There is, for instance, currently no agreement on the proposal to build a Centre for Peace Building and Conflict Resolution on the site of the Maze Long Kesh Prison.

Failure to achieve a consensus of opinion within and between the communities on these difficult and sensitive issues is clear evidence of the complexity of the challenges that still remain in the region in the areas of reconciliation and community cohesion. In an attempt to address these complex challenges, the First Minister and Deputy First Minister announced the setting up of an all-party group to deal with some of the most divisive issues in society in Northern Ireland. They also announced that Dr Richard Haass, the former United States Envoy to Northern Ireland and President of the Council on Foreign Relations in the United States, had accepted an invitation to be the independent chair of the group. The talks concluded in December 2013 without agreement.

The political parties and British and Irish Governments made a renewed effort in 2014 to reach agreement. Towards the end of 2014, through The Stormont House Agreement, consensus on key budgetary issues including welfare was reached. In addition agreement was reached in the following areas:

- A Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition will be established by June 2015 and report within 18 months;
- Powers to take responsibility for parades and related protests should, in principle, be devolved to the NI Assembly. OFMDFM shall bring forward proposals to the Executive by June 2015 as to how the remaining key issues can be addressed;
- As part of the transition to long-term peace and stability, it was agreed that the following principles should be respected in dealing with the past
 - promoting reconciliation;
 - upholding the rule of law;
 - acknowledging and addressing the suffering of victims and survivors;
 - facilitating the pursuit of justice and information recovery;
 - human rights compliant; and
 - balanced, proportionate, transparent, fair and equitable.

Consistent with these principles, the participants agreed to establish the following;

- an Oral History Archive;
- the Historical Investigations Unit (HIU);
- an Independent Commission on Information Retrieval (ICIR);
- an Implementation and Reconciliation Group (IRG);

In addition it was re-affirmed that *victims and survivors* will have access to high quality services including a Mental Trauma Service.

The financial annex to the Stormont House Agreement makes reference to a previous agreement of the UK government to allocate an additional €50 million of ERDF funds from the UK's European Territorial Co-operation's allocation to the PEACE Programme (the additional €50m increased the total of ERDF funds to €229 million).

However since the Agreement there have been significant delays in the agreed implementation timetable, with key dates having been missed. Further all-party talks were convened in September 2015, to discuss the implementation of the Agreement. The talks are also concerned with the continuing impact and legacy of paramilitary organisations in Northern Ireland.

Subject to the approval of successful project applications, some of the actions and activities proposed in the Stormont House Agreement could be funded by the programme, provided that they can contribute to the objectives and result orientation of PEACE IV.

The evolving nature of the peace process, and the resulting policies and agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement, and the challenges presented by the implementation of agreements, provides the context within which the objectives and priorities of the PEACE Programme have been developed.

Theories of Change Underpinning the PEACE Programmes

A theory of change is a set of beliefs about how change happens. According to academic research, there are ten relevant conflict or post conflict theories of change[8] some of which are directly relevant to peace-building[9] initiatives. A literature review carried out as part of the preparation of the PEACE III Programme indicated that two of the ten theories were relevant to the problems related to the post-conflict society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region [10].

These were: *the individual change theory* which suggests that peace comes through transformative change of a critical mass of individuals, their consciousness, attitudes, behaviours and skills; and *the healthy relationships and connections theory* which suggests that peace emerges out of a process of breaking down isolation, polarisation, division, prejudice and stereotypes between / amongst groups.

Understanding Reconciliation and the PEACE Programme

In addition to consideration of the theories of change, the PEACE III Programme reflected the experience that had been gained in PEACE II on developing an understanding of the concepts of reconciliation and applying those concepts to the development, implementation and monitoring of the PEACE III Programme [11].

This analysis was based on work carried out by Hamber and Kelly in 2004[12] who developed a five strand description of what reconciliation could mean in a region emerging from conflict. The elements of this definition are: building positive relationships; working towards substantial social, political and economic change; acknowledging and dealing with the past; developing a shared vision of an interdependent and fair society; and achieving significant cultural and attitudinal change within society.

The core strategy of the PEACE III Programme was to focus on building positive relationships for a shared future and to acknowledge and deal with the past in order to achieve substantial social, political and economic change.

The strategy for the PEACE IV Programme is predicated on the acceptance that the PEACE III strategy is a valid assessment of the contribution that the Programme can make. The mid-term evaluation of PEACE III noted the key successes of the programme:

- Strategic and targeted projects;
- A more streamlined delivery structure;
- The creation of Peace Clusters & County Council led partnerships;
- The development of shared spaces;
- Greater understanding of conflict resolution.

The mid-term evaluation also identified areas of improvement which include:

- Improved monitoring of data;

- Application approval process;
- Strengthening cross-border links;
- Stronger outcomes focused;
- Transition from single identity to cross community work;
- Aligning the Peace Clusters with the new council boundaries;
- Enhanced communication.

While PEACE IV will not be a direct continuation of previous PEACE Programmes, it will build on their experiences and learning. Investment in the chosen themes of shared education, children and young people, shared spaces and services, and building positive relations, and the associated interventions are critical to facilitate these desired behavioural changes.

The core objectives of PEACE IV will be to support actions that will develop and deepen reconciliation between divided communities; increase tolerance and respect, promote increased community cohesion and contact, enhance cross-border cooperation and address the legacy of the past.

As was the case in 2007 - 2013, PEACE IV will embed the concept of reconciliation into the objectives and desired results of the Programme. All funded operations and all eligible groups or organisations that apply for funding, will be required to identify how they will contribute towards the achievement of the results that the Programme sets out to achieve.

The target groups of the programme will be those who are closely related to each of the themes.

Under Shared Education, children attending pre-schools, primary schools and post primary schools in all sectors, including the integrated sector, will gain the greatest benefit. Schools that have not previously benefited from shared education schemes will be encouraged to participate.

The target groups of the Children and Young People theme will be young people up to the age of 24 years (inclusive of all age groups) and particularly those of age 14-24 who are most marginalised and disadvantaged, including being at risk of becoming involved in violence or dissident activity, and/or living in areas of disadvantage. It is envisaged that a significant number of these young people will not be in education, employment or training (NEET).

The Shared Spaces and Services theme and the Building Positive Relations theme should be of the widest possible benefit to all across the region. However, projects supported by these themes must also target those groups particularly impacted by the legacy of troubles/conflict such as victims and survivors and communities with low social capital, and identifiable groups and networks dealing with specific legacy issues such as young and older people, women, the faith community, victims and survivors, those suffering from physical or mental disability arising from the legacy of violence, ex-prisoners, displaced persons and former members of security forces.

Justification of Proposed Objectives

Demographics of the Region

A Society of Minority National Identities

Traditionally within Northern Ireland and the Border Region, religion has provided a powerful marker for national identity. The recent outcome of the 2011 Census in Northern Ireland however, provides statistical evidence that the concept of national identity is very complex. For the first time the Census asked a question on national identity that gave the respondent the option of selecting multiple identities, including Irish, British and Northern Irish. Only 9% of the population regarded themselves as being of dual identity; 21% of the population classify themselves as Northern Irish; 25% regard themselves as Irish compared to a 45% Catholic share of the population; and 40% regard themselves as British compared to a 48% Protestant share of the population. It is clear therefore that a diverse perception of national identity is held across the region. Of relevance to the PEACE Programme is the emerging fact that religious background and national identity is not as strongly fixed as it would have been in the past.

The Border Region has experienced major population changes in recent years. During the "celtic tiger" years there was strong inward migration from across Europe and the rest of the world to the Border Region. In more recent years, as a result of the financial crisis, there has been net outward migration, especially of young qualified people. 11% of the population of the Border Region is of non-Irish national origin. In some towns this figure rises to over 25%. The population of the Border Region is predominantly Roman Catholic (86%).

A Society with a Declining Tendency for Residential Segregation

Census 2011 provides evidence that there has been a significant shift in patterns of housing choice. When compared to the 2001 Census, there has been a move towards more sharing of residential areas. The proportion of electoral wards with a single identity (as defined by having 80% or more of the same religion) has fallen from 55.5% in 2001 to 37% in 2011. Furthermore, there has been an increase in the number of wards where no community has a majority of over 50%. This has gone up from 13 (2.2%) to 18 (4.8%) between 2001 and 2011. However, despite an overall positive shift in residential segregation housing patterns, there has been little change in the most segregated areas in East and West Belfast and Derry/Londonderry.

A Geographically Differentiated Society

Despite progress made in relation to shared living, the deprivations indices report stark geographical trends in relation to the two communities (based on religion). For example, Catholic majority areas experience a higher level of socio economic disadvantage, accounting for 80% of the top 20 most deprived wards and only 30% of the least deprived wards. This differential is less marked when the most severely disadvantaged areas are considered. Deprivation indices show that 22% of Catholic households experience poverty, compared to 17% of Protestant households [13].

Overall unemployment in the two communities in Northern Ireland tends to be similar on a pro rata basis. However, this does not hold in the demographic group of 18 to 24 year olds, where 20% of Catholics are unemployed, compared to 15% of Protestants in the same age group.

From a health perspective, the life expectancy of a man in the predominantly Catholic area of West Belfast is three years less (72.5) than his counterpart in the predominantly Protestant area of East Belfast (75.5). In terms of education, seven out of ten areas of lowest achievement are in Protestant working class areas. When educational achievement is considered by gender, class and religion, there is evidence that Protestant disadvantaged communities fare less well than their Catholic counterparts [14].

A Society More at Ease with Differences

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) statistics[15] substantiate that the number of reported hate crimes in Northern Ireland had diminished from 2355 in 2006/07 to 1563 in 2012/13, however the occurrence of hate crimes recorded in 2013/2014 had again risen to 1,922.

Throughout the entire reporting period, out of the six recorded hate crime categories, sectarian and racist related hate crimes have consistently been the highest. In 2013/14 the most commonly reported category of hate crime was sectarianism which accounted for over 48%, a reduction from 57% in 2012/13.

In 2013/14 the second most common hate crime category was racist crime which accounted for almost 36% of all hate crime, a rise from 30% in 2012/13. The third most common category of hate crime recorded in 2013/14 was homophobic crime which accounted for 9.3% of all hate crimes.

The overall figure for recorded hate crime in Northern Ireland was higher than that for England and Wales (1.4% vs. 1.1%). When sectarianism is excluded from these statistics, the percentage in Northern Ireland was lower than in England and Wales. This provides evidence of the idiosyncratic nature of sectarian based hate crime in Northern Ireland and the need for the PEACE IV Programme to target this phenomenon.

Education

The education system in Northern Ireland consists of different types of schools under the control of management committees who are also the employers of teachers [16]. There are over 322,000 students in pre-school, primary and secondary education in Northern Ireland (2011/12)

Overall, 92.6% of children attend schools that are predominantly associated with one community. In Ireland, over 90% of schools are owned and maintained by the Catholic Church [17] with only 2% of schools being described as multi-denominational [18]. In the Border Region of Ireland, there are 500 primary and 146 secondary schools. The majority of these schools have a Catholic ethos, but there are 59 primary schools and 6 post primary schools with a Protestant ethos.

The Education Reform (NI) Order 1989 places a duty on the Department of Education in Northern Ireland to encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education. This was reiterated within the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement, placing an obligation on government to encourage and facilitate integrated education. This has proven to be a challenging commitment to deliver in the short to medium term, with only 6.8% of NI pupils enrolled in integrated primary or post primary schools [19].

The corresponding figure for Ireland is 2%. Despite this low representation, support for the ethos of integrated schooling is strong across the region. A February 2013 opinion poll [20] reported that 69% of polled persons considered integrated schooling to represent the best preparation for living in a diverse society.

There is also evidence of public support for the related concept of shared education. A poll published in the Belfast Telegraph in June 2012 asked: ‘Should the Education Minister encourage state and Catholic schools to share facilities and / or teachers in view of falling pupil numbers and cuts in funding?’ Three out of four who expressed an opinion said yes. When the undecided are included in the results, support was lower but still significant, at 54% [21].

Recognising the complexities of implementing integrated education, the Programme for Government in Northern Ireland supports shared education, which is predicated on a model of good relations and improved educational outcomes [22]. It identifies targets to provide children with the opportunity to participate in shared education programmes and to increase the number of schools sharing facilities.

In recent years, the Department of Education has undertaken much work in this area in partnership with the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and Atlantic Philanthropies. The Sharing in Education Programme (SiEP), which engaged with 46,000 children, resulted in participants developing good personal and social skills through their engagement with others in exploring controversial, sensitive and complex and relevant issues to their lives. Children were open to meeting with others with different perspectives; they were respectful in discussions and displayed good levels of empathy. Some of the lessons of the programme included:

- The importance in tracking progress in understanding, skills, attitudes and behaviours in achieving good outcomes;
- The benefits of a flexible approach that was responsive to profile and views of participants;
- Effective projects progressed at a pace appropriate to the participants needs;
- Involving partners can be complex and time consuming, but it led to a more enriched experience for participants;
- Interventions require careful planning across the school/partnership to ensure good learning outcomes for young people;
- Schools have a tendency to set very ambitious targets, which they then struggle to meet as they under estimate the challenges in shared education;
- Developing a whole school commitment to shared education is important, including the professional development of staff [23].

The PEACE IV Programme has taken these lessons into account, in identifying appropriate results, outputs and actions to be supported. The Programme will target those schools that have not yet participated in shared education initiatives to date. This will further develop the work that has been undertaken in this area to bring about a more inclusive society within Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Celebration of Identity in a Nation of Minorities

The stability of the NI economy is vulnerable to displays of civic unrest related to perceived threats felt by local communities to their national and cultural identity. Achieving community consensus on sensitive issues such as flags, emblems, parades and other expressions of national and cultural identity is a high priority. It also presents a significant challenge for leadership within civil society.

The number of marches held a year in Northern Ireland has increased significantly over the past three decades – from 1,897 in 1985 to 4,320 in 2012.

The period for implementation of the PEACE Programme coincides with a number of commemorations of key historical dates and events. The decade from 2012 to 2022 is referred to in Ireland and Northern Ireland as the *Decade of Centenaries* or the *Decade of Commemorations*. Among the events that will be commemorated are: the Government of

Ireland Act (1920), the Anglo Irish Treaty (1921), the beginning of the First World War (1914); the Easter Rising (1916); and the First Battle of the Somme (1916).

All of these commemorations are of great importance to both communities on the island of Ireland and in the United Kingdom. A joint statement issued by the Taoiseach and the Prime Minister on the decade of commemorations (March 2012)[24] said that both Governments were committed to working with the Northern Ireland Executive to ensure that these commemorations would contribute to greater reconciliation rather than division.

The decade of commemorations could serve to invoke a renewed sense of individual and group identity or reinforce a sense of ‘otherness’ or difference. It could also serve to highlight or emphasise a sense of commonality and collective experience, not previously articulated.

The 2010 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey indicates that there is widespread acknowledgement (62%) that Northern Ireland is still not a place free from displays of sectarian aggression; with 87% of respondents agreeing with the assertion that better relations will come about through more integration.

The Mid-Term Evaluation of PEACE III identified the need for future funding to address issues surrounding the sense of identity within communities and tackling the challenges presented by symbols, flags and related issues. The evaluation also recommended that there should be increased emphasis in PEACE on cross-community work as opposed to single identity interventions in order to reduce the risk of entrenching divisions. This will require investment in the development of civil leadership within local communities and across society.

The PEACE IV Programme has the potential to leave a lasting legacy in Northern Ireland and the Border Region by addressing these challenges. Communities must be encouraged to take pride in their culture, customs and heritage in a manner that does not alienate or antagonise other sections of the wider community. The upcoming period of anniversaries, which are shared between Ireland and Northern Ireland, should be viewed as an opportunity to create new fora for dialogue and debate, education and information-sharing, cross-community collaboration and partnership building, and the development of leadership of civil society, both within Northern Ireland and on a cross border basis.

Children and Young People

Over one third of the population in Northern Ireland is under the age of 25 years and therefore has had no direct experience of the major civil unrest and violent conflict of the recent past. Despite this, the underlying issues of segregation and exclusion are still prevalent in this generation.

This was very apparent from the involvement of this age group in the flag protests of December 2012 and the riots surrounding the July parades in the Ardoyne area of Belfast in 2013. The *Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report* (Nolan, 2013) states that “During the flags dispute that ran through the winter of 2012-13, much attention was focused on east Belfast and it was frequently asserted that the unrest was not just about the removal of the Union Flag from the City Hall but underlying social and economic disadvantage.”[25]

Research shows that children in Northern Ireland learn the cultural and political preferences of their own community by the age of three, and by the age of six one third of children recognise that they are a member of either the Protestant or Catholic communities, with one in six making sectarian statements[26].

Research carried out by the Young National Children’s Bureau in January 2013[27] indicates that parents have the biggest influence in shaping young people’s attitudes towards other religions and cultures. This situation demonstrates that the attitudes of many young people need to be challenged to become more inclusive and accepting of diversity.

This is particularly relevant given the continuing prevalence (albeit reduced in its extent) of segregated housing and schooling. Moreover, and in a more general sense, many of the behaviours that children carry through life begin to develop during these early years. In this regard, policy approaches should be pursued to positively address the impact of adversity on children by intervening both earlier and more effectively to reduce the risk of poor outcomes later in life.

A Department of Employment and Learning policy document, *Pathways to Success*, was launched in May 2012.

The document linked the concentration of young people not in employment, education or training in the communities that experience high levels of exclusion and bear the greatest strain in terms of material and social deprivation, with the fact that these communities were those that suffered most from violence. They also continue to experience segregated patterns of living and, to a significant extent, working.

Recent reports in Northern Ireland[28] and Ireland[29] show that the percentage of young people who are NEET has increased significantly over the period 2006 to 2011 and the number of those who made the transition into employment has fallen. In Northern Ireland the total number of people aged 16- 24 who were not in education, employment or training during the period July – September 2014 was 36,000. (Labour Force Survey Quarterly Supplement July – September 2014). Education is compulsory in Ireland until the age of 15. There is no directly comparable Labour Force Survey conducted for the Border Region of Ireland, but based on the Quarterly National Household Survey (Oct-Dec 2014), the number of 15-24 year olds who fit the definition of unemployment is approximately 9,600.

PEACE IV will have a particular focus on young people aged 14 to 24 who are most disadvantaged/marginalised and may be at risk of becoming involved in violence or dissident activity, and/or living in areas of disadvantage. It is envisaged that a significant number of these young people will not be in education, employment or training (NEET).

The PEACE IV Programme presents an opportunity to work with disengaged young men and women to provide them with a sense of belonging, reduce the appeal of partaking in street violence and instead engage in activities to improve cross-community relations and a sense of citizenship. This can be achieved by delivering integrated good relations, citizenship and personal development activities tailored to the individual to meet their needs. Project implementation will involve cross-community, and / or cross-border, partnerships and activities

Interface Areas and Shared Space

There are many different kinds of interface areas in Northern Ireland [30]. The most well-known of these are the Peace Walls, 58 of which are owned by the Department of Justice. In addition, there are 41 other barriers throughout Northern Ireland, bringing the total number to 99[31]. The Peace Walls are for the most part walls, fences, gates or barriers between communities. The most recent survey on the attitudes of residents to the removal of the Peace Walls [32] reported that 58% of interface residents were in favour of the barriers being removed. This increased to 76% when the views of the wider population were taken into account.

This widespread support for action is mirrored in the Northern Ireland Executive's commitment to removing all interfaces by 2023, as detailed in the recently published *Together: Building a United Community* (TBUC Strategy), which recognises the importance of dealing with people's actual and perceived safety resulting from barrier removal.

In addition to the physical barriers, there exist virtual barriers (e.g. retail businesses, shopping malls or streets patronised by one community to the almost full exclusion of another community) which not only act as a reinforcement of division, but also negatively impact small businesses.

The impact of the PEACE Bridge in Derry / Londonderry, financed by the PEACE III Programme, is a good example of what can be achieved by creating shared space that opens up the potential for increased engagement between communities and increased normalisation of economic activity.

The creation of shared space however requires a great deal of work with the communities on either side of the interface area and an investment in the normalisation of the resultant shared space. The PEACE IV Programme provides the opportunity to complement the stated objectives of the TBUC Strategy by working with local authorities and local communities throughout the programme region towards the creation of shared spaces. This may include the creation of additional iconic shared spaces or working towards the normalisation of public places to make them safe for all communities.

Unaddressed Mental Health Needs of Victims and Survivors

The Good Friday Agreement indicated the need to acknowledge the suffering of victims and to provide services “that are supportive and sensitive” with a role for both statutory and community-based organisations. According to a 2013 report compiled by the University of Ulster [33] regarding the mental health impact of the conflict in Northern Ireland, 39% of the study population had experienced a conflict-related traumatic event; 5.1% of the population have met the criteria for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) related to the troubles/conflict in the previous 12 months.

Recent policy developments in mental health in both Northern Ireland and Ireland (i.e. The Bamford Review [34] in Northern Ireland and Vision for Change in Ireland [35]) recognise the urgent need for investment in psychological therapies.

In Northern Ireland, The Commission for Victims and Survivors for Northern Ireland (CVSNI) was established in June 2008 to promote awareness of the interests and needs of victims and survivors of the conflict. The Commission recently completed a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) [36] of victims and survivors in Northern Ireland. As part of this analysis of needs, original research in a number of areas, including that of mental health [37] was commissioned. This research examined the impact of the conflict on the development of the specific mental health needs of victims and survivors.

The commissioning of this particular study was in response to a recognised scarcity of epidemiological research relating to the prevalence of mental health disorders directly attributable to the conflict. The data contained in this report is drawn from a wider international epidemiological study of mental well-being. The report provides robust data that can inform the commissioning and provision of effective mental health services.

The Victims and Survivors Service (VSS) in Northern Ireland was created in 2012. It was designed to be the focal point for funding work with victims and survivors in Northern Ireland and has replaced a number of existing funding schemes. The CVSNI, in their submission to the consultation on the PEACE IV Programme, indicated health and well-being as the number one need for victims and survivors, particularly in the area of mental health. The CVSNI also recognised the importance of supporting the community and voluntary sector in the delivery of services.

Much progress has already been made in the development of comprehensive services for victims and survivors. In recognition of the need and demand of those who have suffered from the troubles/conflict, the PEACE IV Programme will add value by investing in regional health and well-being services by building on and developing the proven expertise within the region and increasing the capacity of the sector. It would also complement the work being taken forward to deliver the commitments for victims and survivors in the Stormont House Agreement particularly in terms of promoting reconciliation by supporting the needs of victims and survivors as they engage with new

and existing bodies involved in historical investigations and story-telling (e.g. the Historical Investigations Unit; the Independent Commission on Information Retrieval and the Oral History Archive).

The targeting of victims and survivors for these services will be based on the statutory definition of a victim and survivor provided by the Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 [38]. There is no equivalent assessment of need for victims of the conflict in the Border Region of Ireland. Given that the experiences of the conflict were similar on both sides of the Border it is reasonable to assume that the need is also similar. The PEACE IV Programme will aim to address the needs of victims and survivors of the conflict in the area of mental health on both sides of the Border.

SWOT ANALYSIS

The following strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified during the process of conducting a socio-economic profile of the region in preparation for the planning and implementation of the new programme.

STRENGTHS

- Established mechanisms for cross-border cooperation
- Functioning power-sharing government and relative political stability
- Improved security situation
- Decrease in the number of sectarian related deaths
- Introduction of an agreed community relations strategy in NI: “Together: Building a United Community” Strategy
- Evidence of significantly improved relations between Protestants and Catholics in NI as per Life and Times Survey results
- Significant decrease in housing segregation (from 80% to 55% between “2007 – 2012)
- Relatively young population compared to EU average – especially in NI and Border Region
- Strong population growth

- Strong community and voluntary sector
- Parts of the education system performing extremely well

WEAKNESSES

- Unacceptable levels of sectarian and race motivated crime
- Largely divided society - 50% live in segregated communities within NI
- Only 6% of children in NI are educated together with children from a different community background
- Lack of shared space
- High number of victims and survivors
- Underdeveloped economy as a result of the Troubles/Conflict i.e. a lack of large firms
- Under representation of high value sectors and over reliance on public sector
- High level of economic inactivity & low labour market participation rates
- Employment levels in NI (67%) the lowest in the UK
- Significant increase in unemployment (Border region 17.5%)
- High levels of young people not in employment, education or training
- Large amount of the population with little or no qualifications
- High levels of poverty
- Lower levels of disposable income than national averages
- Community differentials with regard to education and employment

OPPORTUNITIES

- An increasing number of people within NI wish to live in a mixed area (85%)
- Political and social stability
- Physical and social impact of implementing the agreed strategy for community relations in NI
- Increased levels of shared space
- Significant support for shared education in NI
- Increased cohesion opportunities made possible by the review of local government
- Further development of key growth sectors across the region
- Attract skilled people including Diaspora
- Increased levels of cross-border co-operation
- Build upon cross community and cross-border partnerships and best practice established under previous PEACE Programmes

THREATS

- The potential for political instability within the NI Executive which may impact on community relations and economic growth
- Increased levels of social exclusion due to rising unemployment and low labour market participation rates
- Vulnerable security situation across the region due to threat from dissident paramilitaries
- Potential for public demonstrations and disturbances of a sectarian nature, due to perceived marginalisation, which destabilise society and the economy

- Large skills gaps identified within growth sectors such as ICT and advanced materials
- Continued brain drain on young people from the region
- Increased levels of segregation
- Global economic trends impacting negatively on local economic growth

The Programme has been developed under a single investment priority: “Contribute to the promotion of social and economic stability in the region through actions which promote cohesion between communities”, which is within the Thematic Objective “Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination [2].

As all the proposed activities are distinctive to the PEACE Programme and directly contribute to promoting cohesion between communities, it is considered desirable to utilise a single investment priority. To inform the process of choosing the specific objectives for the PEACE Programme, the programme developers referred to the most significant evidence gathered during the public consultations (held in 2012 and 2014 and summarised in Annex 1), the consultations with the relevant government departments in both jurisdictions, and the Socio-Economic Profile (SWOT analysis) [39].

Given the historical origins of the conflict, and the importance placed on the cross border dimension within the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement, the PEACE Programmes from their inception have promoted practical cross border co-operation. The importance of this approach is further underlined by the inclusion of PEACE IV under the European Territorial Cooperation Regulation. PEACE IV will continue to promote cross-border cooperation, encouraging the forging of new relationships and developing existing relationships that support the peace and reconciliation objectives of the programme.

Cross border co-operation will be encouraged across all the specific objectives, and will involve enhanced contact and co-operation between public sector bodies, civic society, communities and individuals, to ensure that the intended results of the objectives are maximised.

Due to the high level of support in the region and the potential for **shared education** to build sustained cross community relationships and contribute to improved educational outcomes, the Socio-Economic Profile identified shared education as an opportunity. This was further substantiated during the consultations and the discussions with government departments, where investment in shared education projects that improve linkages between schools from different sectors, through joint working and collaboration, received strong support for inclusion the PEACE IV Programme.

The consultations also identified the need to engage and inspire the youth population in the region; the desired outcomes would be characterised by improved good relations and enhanced social inclusion. The Socio-Economic Profile and the government departments

in both jurisdictions also highlighted the significant number of young people not in employment, education or training as a concern in a region with a growing youth population. There is a strong link between concentrations of young people who live in areas of disadvantage and those areas that have been most affected by the conflict, including interface areas, and those who are NEET. Informed by this evidence the specific objective relating to **children and young people** has been included in the PEACE IV Programme.

As a result of the success of significant capital projects, delivered under PEACE III, which helped integrate divided communities, the consultations advocated strong support to build upon this important work.

The Socio-Economic Profile identified that in a recent survey, 85% of the population of Northern Ireland wishes to live in a mixed area. During the consultation process, the requirement to facilitate further removal of visible and invisible barriers between communities received strong support. The removal of existing physical barriers, known as Peace Walls (which enforce segregation in interface areas), is a key strategic aim of the NI Executive owned TBUC strategy.

To facilitate the removal of visible and invisible barriers between divided communities, real and perceived issues related to physical safety and building trust must be addressed. It is envisaged that the integration of communities can be facilitated and improved through the investment in an increased number of shared spaces and services. The inclusion of **shared spaces and services** in the PEACE IV Programme also received support during the public consultations and the consultations with government departments.

The public consultations and the PSNI's own statistics on hate motivated incidents highlight the prevalence of sectarianism and race motivated hate crimes within the eligible area. The consultations also identified the need for solutions, to address this issue within local areas, be included in the PEACE IV Programme.

It is envisaged that interventions designed **to build positive relations** based on respect and diversity will be included in the PEACE IV Programme. Building and improving relations in economically and socially deprived areas where segregation remains, is a strategic initiative of the NI Assembly defined by the recent TBUC strategy. Improving relationships within and between communities and on a cross border basis remains a key priority for the Irish government. The Programme will contribute to this by funding initiatives to build positive relations within a local, regional and cross-border context.

[1] Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013, Recital (18) and Article 12, para. 2.

[2] Preparing a new Programme for Cross-border Cooperation (INTERREG) and a new Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE) 2014 – 2020 – Summary of Consultation Responses, SEUPB, February 2013.

[3] Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013, Recital (18)

[4] The development of a new EU Programme for Cross-border Co-Operation (INTERREG) and a new EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE) 2014 - 2020 - Socio-Economic Profile

[5] Statistical Bulletin, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, December 2012; and All Ireland Research Observatory, Census Mapping Module: Border <http://www.airo.ie>

[6] Nolan, Paul, (2013) Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report – Number Two, page 62. Community Relations Council, Belfast.

[7] House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee (2009), The Report of the Consultative Group on the Past in Northern Ireland, Second Report of Session 2009-2010, House of Commons, London.

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[9] JP Lederach, Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies, US Institute of Peace Press, 1997.

[10] PEACE III – EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2007-2013 – Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland – Operational Programme, para. 3.18. SEUPB, Belfast.

[11] SEUPB (2007). PEACE III – EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2007-2013 – Operational Programme, para. 2.63 and para. 3.1 to 3.26.

[12] Hamber, B. and Kelly, G. (2004) A Working Definition of Reconciliation. Occasional paper published by Democratic Dialogue, Belfast.

[13] Annual Family Resources Survey (February 2013)

[14] Nolan, P. (2013) Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report – Number Two, page 105.

[15] Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/5 to 2013/14. Annual bulleting 3th July 2014. Page 9.

- [16] Department of Education Northern Ireland website
http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/85-schools/10-types_of_school-nischools_pg.htm
- [17] <http://www.citizensinformation.ie>
- [18] <http://www.educatetogether.ie>
- [19] Nolan, P. (2013) Number of Protestant and Catholic pupils by School Type 2011-12.
- [20] Integrated Education Fund Lucid Talk Poll, February 2013, Integrated Education Fund, Belfast. <http://www.ief.org.uk>
- [21] Nolan, P. (2013) Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report – Number Two, page 128.
- [22] Northern Ireland Executive (2012)
- [23] A Final Evaluation of the International Fund for Ireland’s Sharing in Education Programme 2013, The Education and Training Inspectorate
- [24] Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht website
<http://www.decadeofcentenaries.com/statement/>
- [25] Nolan (2013) Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report – Number Two, page 101
- [26] ‘Too young to Notice’, Professor Paul Connolly, Queen’s University Belfast, 2002
- [27] Investigating Young People’s Attitudes to Sectarianism in Northern Ireland, Young National Children’s Bureau, January 2013
- [28] Nolan (2013) Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Report – Number Two, page 102
- [29] Kelly, E., McGuinness, S. (2013) The Impact of the Recession on the Structure and Labour Market Success of Young Unemployed and NEET Individuals in Ireland, ESRI, Dublin
- [30] Nolan, P. (2013) para. 9.1.
- [31] Byrne, J., Gormley-Keenan, C., and Robinson, G. (2012) Peace walls, public attitudes and impact on policy, Policy Brief University of Ulster / Institute for Research in Social Sciences.

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[36] Comprehensive Needs Assessment (2012), Commissioner for Victims and Survivors, Belfast.

[37] Troubled Consequences: A report on the mental health impact of the civil conflict in Northern Ireland”, The University of Ulster (2011).

[38] The Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order (2006), Provision 3(1) & (2).

[39] The development of a new EU Programme for Cross-border Co-Operation (INTERREG) and a new EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE) 2014 - 2020 - Socio-Economic Profile

1.1.2 Justification for the choice of thematic objectives and corresponding investment priorities, having regard to the Common Strategic Framework, based on an analysis of the needs within the programme area as a whole and the strategy chosen in response to such needs, addressing, where appropriate, missing links in cross-border infrastructure, taking into account the results of the ex-ante evaluation

Table 1: Justification for the selection of thematic objectives and investment priorities

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)	The need for improved relationships and deeper integration between communities, with a particular focus on children and young people, has been identified through extensive public consultation. This analysis is supported by socio economic data, and is consistent with government policies, the mid-term evaluation of PEACE III; and the position papers prepared by the EC. The ex-ante evaluation

Selected thematic objective	Selected investment priority	Justification for selection
		has confirmed the analysis. There is a high level of segregation within society which limits the potential for the development of positive relationships between individuals and communities. Positive relationships and reconciliation will emerge out of a process of breaking down isolation, polarisation, prejudice and stereotypes. The Programme will create opportunities for enhanced and sustained contact between school children, young people and communities, as well as enhanced cross-border cooperation. The programme will also create new shared space and tailored services to further enhance contact.

1.2 Justification for the financial allocation

Justification for the financial allocation (i.e. Union support) to each thematic objective and, where appropriate, investment priority, in accordance with the thematic concentration requirements, taking into account the ex-ante evaluation.

The programme budget will have a single thematic objective (Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination) and the related investment priority of “contribute to promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities.

It is proposed that the total ERDF funding of €229,169,320 is allocated across the four specific objectives and technical assistance as follows:

- Shared Education - €30,000,000 representing 13%;
- Children and Young People - €46,500,000 representing 20%;
 - Young people aged 14-24 - €32,000,000 (Note this will be implemented in two phases)
 - Local Councils - €14,500,000
- Shared Spaces and Services - €84,500,000 representing 37%;
 - Capital development to create new shared spaces - €45,000,000
 - Victims & Survivors - €15,000,000
 - Local Councils - €24,500,000
- Building Positive Relations - €54,419,162 representing 24%
 - Local Councils - €30,000,000
 - Regional Projects - €24,419,162

In addition, €13,750,158 is allocated to Technical Assistance which represents 6% of the total ERDF.

The allocation of funding across the specific objectives is based on a needs analysis in the programme area and the potential offered by PEACE IV to have an impact in addressing these needs.

Shared education: The allocation is based on the desire to have a significant regional impact. The Programme will target those schools that have not previously participated in shared education. There are approximately 530 schools (Border Region and Northern Ireland) that fall into this category. The Programme has a target of 350 schools, which represents 66% of potentially eligible schools. The financial allocation is based on the costs of other shared education programmes, adjusted for the target number of schools.

Children and young people: The allocation is based on the desire to achieve a significant regional impact on building good relations among the most disadvantaged and most marginalised young people. Actions for both targeted groups will be implemented on a two phased approach.

A target of 7,400 young people (14-24 years) has been agreed. The financial allocation has been calculated using this target number, together with making provision for other additional activities targeting children and young people within the 0-24 age groups (agreed target 21,000).

The allocation for activities for young people (14-24 years) will be implemented through a phased approach in two stages whereby Phase 1 will be allocated 25% and Phase 2 will be allocated 75%. The implementation of Phase 2 will be subject to a positive evaluation of Phase 1. The evaluation will be carried out by an independent evaluator and will be presented to the programme monitoring committee for approval in 2018.

These two specific objectives, shared education and children and young people, have been allocated a total of approximately 38% of the overall programme budget. This level of allocation is consistent with the findings of the public consultation, government policy and the EC position papers.

Shared spaces and services: This specific objective has the highest single allocation due to the nature of activities to be supported. Large scale capital build projects are envisaged under this specific objective. Experience gained from the previous Programme highlights that each project requires a significant investment, (estimated average costs €6 million) to make a transformative impact at the local level. Given the nature of these projects sufficient allocation is necessary to ensure that a reasonable number of projects can be funded.

A minimum of 8 projects are required to ensure reasonable spatial distribution across the eligible region. An additional provision has been made for shared services to victims and survivors and for other shared spaces projects at the local level.

Building positive relations: To achieve the specific objective for this theme it will be necessary to invest in sustainable networks and build strong civic leadership to promote the creation of and the participation in cross-community events which build respect and

good relationships across local communities in Northern Ireland and the border region, particularly at the grass roots community level. It is envisaged initiatives will be local authority led and that organisations that can make a positive impact in building sustainable cross-community relations will be involved in the delivery of the PEACE IV Programme.

However some issues and targets groups can be better accommodated through regional level initiatives that recognise that issues and targets groups transcend local authority boundaries. These regional initiatives also facilitate cross-border co-operation. The balance between local and regional initiatives will ensure the maximum level of inclusion in the Programme.

Technical Assistance: Ensuring the compliance with regulatory requirements concerning (e.g. monitoring, evaluation, communication) will require an investment of 6% of the total ERDF allocation.

The ex-ante evaluation notes:

“It [The Programme] has drawn on a wide-ranging evidence base including socio-economic data, National and EU Policy context, stakeholder input, lessons learnt from the delivery of previous programmes and recommendations from previous programme evaluations. This has ensured that the programme is firmly rooted in the needs of the programme area and seeks to take advantage of opportunities in the programme region. It should also be well placed to make an impact on the programme region and has the potential to contribute to the Union Strategy for smart and inclusive growth – particularly to the inclusive growth targets and to a lesser extent to the targets relating to smart and sustainable growth. This logical, well-reasoned approach has provided a strong base for the development of the programme's intervention logic.”

The Ex Ante evaluators are satisfied that the priorities have a firm basis in the needs of the programme area, drawing on the strengths and weaknesses and targeting the key challenges for the region. The specific objectives are consistent with and fit within the relevant thematic objective and investment priority, and are coherent and complementary. The actions proposed are appropriate to support the development needs, the investment priority and the specific objectives of the Programme.

Table 2: Overview of the investment strategy of the cooperation programme

Priority axis	ERDF support (€)	Proportion (%) of the total Union support for the cooperation programme (by Fund)			Thematic objective / Investment priority / Specific objective	Result indicators corresponding to the specific indicator
		ERDF	ENI (where applicable)	IPA (where applicable)		
P1	215,419,162.00	94.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ 09 - Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination ▼ 9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ SO1 - The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitude to contribute to cohesive society ▼ SO2 - Enhancing the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society. ▼ SO3 - The creation of a more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services. ▼ SO4 - The promotion of positive relations characterised by respect, and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance 	[1.1, 1.1b, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3]
P2	13,750,158.00	6.00%	0.00%	0.00%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SO1 - To ensure that the programme is implemented, monitored and inspected in an efficient and effective manner. SO2 - To ensure that the programme is meeting its objectives by effective evaluation. SO3 - To ensure that potential beneficiaries are aware of the opportunities presented by the programme and that the general public is aware of the outputs and results of the programme. 	[]

2. PRIORITY AXES

2.A DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES OTHER THAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.A.1 Priority axis

ID of the priority axis	P1
Title of the priority axis	Promoting Peace and Reconciliation

- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments
- The entire priority axis will be implemented solely through financial instruments set up at Union level
- The entire priority axis will be implemented through community-led local development

2.A.2 Justification for the establishment of a priority axis covering more than one thematic objective (where applicable)

Not Applicable

2.A.3 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Public

2.A.4 Investment priority

ID of the investment priority	9f
Title of the investment priority	Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)

2.A.5 Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results

ID of the specific objective	SO1
Title of the specific objective	The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitude to contribute to cohesive society
Results that the Member	The current educational structures within the region result in a large proportion of children being educated solely with children

ID of the specific objective	SO1
Title of the specific objective	The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitude to contribute to cohesive society
States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>of a similar background. The Programme aims to ensure that sharing in education becomes a central part of every child's educational experience by providing opportunities for the sustained interaction of children from different backgrounds through their participation in curriculum-based common classes.</p> <p>The programme aims to build a culture of good relations amongst school children, and equip them with the skills and attitudes to contribute to a society where the cycle of sectarianism and intolerance is broken. The theory of change which underpins the Programme emphasises the importance of contact at an individual and community level. The Programme will create opportunities for children to have sustained contact with children from another community background within the existing educational structures. This will facilitate new and increased friendships and contacts on a cross community basis. The contact facilitated by the programme will have positive impacts on intergroup attitudes and behaviours, including a reduction in prejudice and promotion of more harmonious intergroup relations.</p> <p>The Programme will enhance pupils and teachers' capacity to understand and deal with difference in whatever form it occurs; and is premised on equality, human rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p>The Programme recognises that the integrated sector currently provides opportunities for children of different backgrounds to be educated together. The integrated sector is a valued part of the overall education system and its participation within the Programme will be promoted and encouraged. Some schools are currently actively participating in other shared education initiatives. The Programme will have a focus on schools that have not previously provided shared education opportunities to their children, thus increasing the overall number of schools and children that participate in shared education.</p> <p>For those schools participating in the Programme, support will be provided to school management and teachers to enhance their confidence and skills to positively engage and lead shared education initiatives. The Programme will also result in attitudinal change in the wider school community including support staff, parents and governors, who will all be exposed to the principles</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO1
Title of the specific objective	The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitude to contribute to cohesive society
	and ethos underpinning shared education, which in turn will contribute to and help sustain the positive impacts on children. The result indicator is: The percentage of schools in the last academic year that have been involved in shared education with another school. Whilst the result indicator is based on the number of schools, the primary focus of the programme is direct and sustained contact between children, rather than institutional collaboration. This data for the result indicator is currently collected by the Omnibus Survey of Schools in Northern Ireland which is carried out every 2 years. The survey is completed by school principals in Northern Ireland. The Department of Education and Skills (DES) will conduct a similar, biennial survey in the Border Region of Ireland, the first one occurring in 2018.
ID of the specific objective	SO2
Title of the specific objective	Enhancing the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	The Programme will invest in children and young people so that they can reach their potential and maximise their contribution to a cohesive society. In particular the programme will bring about change in the form of clear, meaningful and sustainable "distance travelled" for

ID of the specific objective	SO1
Title of the specific objective	The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitude to contribute to cohesive society
	<p>individual young people in terms of good relations, personal development and citizenship:</p> <p>Good Relations interventions will contribute to lower levels of community division, sectarianism and racism, and will make a positive contribution to reconciliation. The participants will develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A respect for diversity; • An awareness of and sensitivity to the values, beliefs, customs and traditions of others; • An understanding of own identity and respect for others from different community and cultural backgrounds, abilities, orientations • A positive predisposition to others from a different community/ cultural background <p>Personal Development interventions will develop the social, emotional and 'soft skills' of the participant, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased self-awareness, understanding, confidence and agency; • Planning and problem solving; • Relationships including leadership;

ID of the specific objective	SO1
Title of the specific objective	The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitude to contribute to cohesive society
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience, determination; • Other relevant knowledge and skills for supporting own health and well-being. <p>Citizenship interventions will develop the capacity of the participant to make a positive contribution towards their participation in family, community and society. This will involve developing a knowledge and understanding of their own role and developing capabilities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engagement with useful services; • positive participation in community structures, initiatives and democratic processes; • volunteering to support community; • positive family and community relationships. <p>The programme will increase respect for diversity in children and young people by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the understanding of and respect for the rights, equality and diversity of all without discrimination; • Valuing and respecting difference and engaging positively with it, taking account of the on-going inter-community

ID of the specific objective	SO1
Title of the specific objective	The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitude to contribute to cohesive society
	<p>divisions arising from the conflict and the increasing diversity within society;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the skills, attitudes and behaviour needed to develop mutual understanding and recognition of and respect for difference. <p>The Programme will bring positive change to two groups of young people:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Young people in the age between 14 -24 years who are disadvantaged /excluded/marginalised, who have deep social, emotional and good relations needs, who are most likely to become involved in violence or dissident activity; 2. Children and Young people in the age between 0-24 years who would benefit from good relations interventions. <p>The result indicator will measure the attitudinal and behavioural change of 16 year olds (Young life and Times Survey for Northern Ireland). The indicators will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of 16 year olds who socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community; • The percentage of 16 year olds who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were 5 years ago; • The percentage of 16 years olds who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in 5 years time.

ID of the specific objective	SO3
Title of the specific objective	The creation of a more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services.
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>One of the visible aspects of the conflict is the high level of segregation within society. This is evidenced by residential segregation, peace walls, sectarian graffiti, public display of flags and emblems in a manner aimed to mark territory and intimidate. As well as increasing social division and tension, segregation also inhibits the potential for economic development and the efficient delivery of public services. An opportunity exists, as expressed within “Together: Building a United Community” (OFMDFM) and the Reconciliation Fund Strategy (DFAT) to develop a shared community where public spaces are shared by all members of society.</p> <p>The Programme aims to bring about the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New shared civic spaces that will be used by all sections of the community; this will involve changes in both attitudes and behaviour with a corresponding reduction in segregation. • Existing civic spaces developed and managed in a manner that respects the rights, equality and diversity of all. The change will be reflected in how parades, flags, emblems, graffiti and other related issues impact on the public space. This will involve changes in both attitudes and behaviour with a corresponding reduction in segregation. • Enhanced capacity for the delivery of comprehensive regional services for victims and survivors <p>The result indicators have been identified to be consistent with data gathering for the implementation of government policies whose goals align to that of the PEACE IV Programme. This data is collected in Northern Ireland through the Life and Times Survey.</p> <p>Three indicators have been identified:</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO1
Title of the specific objective	The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitude to contribute to cohesive society
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of people who would define the neighbourhood where they live as neutral; • The percentage of people who would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion; • The percentage of people who prefer to live in a mixed religion environment <p>It is recognised that in addition to the impact of the Programme investments, these indicators are very sensitive to other external factors. For example, the lack of a political consensus on how to deal with issues around parades, flags and the past may result in a negative shift in opinions. However, proposed investments should contribute towards improved relations, which is an important component in achieving the overall aim of reconciliation.</p>
ID of the specific objective	SO4
Title of the specific objective	The promotion of positive relations characterised by respect, and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance
Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support	<p>There has been a significant and sustained reduction in the overall level of violence directly related to the conflict. However, there is evidence of continued high levels of sectarianism and racism. The increasing levels of ethnic diversity alongside relatively high levels of socio-economic deprivation in some areas presents new challenges for achieving greater integration and citizenship within society. Due to the history of division in Northern Ireland and the Border Region, some sections of society have not yet developed the capacity to deal positively with diversity and difference.</p> <p>The theory of change which underpins the Programme emphasises the importance of contact at an individual and community level. The Programme will provide opportunities for sustained, meaningful and purposeful contact between individuals and groups of different backgrounds and on a cross border basis. Through this contact the Programme will result in a reduction in</p>

ID of the specific objective	SO1
Title of the specific objective	The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitude to contribute to cohesive society
	<p>isolation, polarisation, division, prejudice, sectarianism, racism and stereotypes between/among groups.</p> <p>The Programme will pay particular attention to minority groups and groups who traditionally have been marginalised in society so that opportunities will be created that allow for a greater degree of participation and integration in society.</p> <p>Building on the experience of previous programmes, the development of strong local partnerships will be supported as well as supporting regional level projects. Within the new local authority arrangements, the Programme will result in effective partnerships between the public, private and community sectors, with capacity to address reconciliation, cultural diversity, conflict transformation and equality. The Programme will result in the development of strong local civic leadership within the business community, trade unions, the community and voluntary sector, public bodies and locally elected representatives. The development of cross border relationships will be encouraged and facilitated. The Programme will support actions to ensure the full participation of women in leadership and local initiatives. The Programme will also result in high level of engagement and inclusion of all target groups in reconciliation activities, through ensuring a balance between local and regional initiatives, including cross border initiatives.</p> <p>The result indicators have been identified to be consistent with data gathering for the implementation of government policies whose goals align to that of the Programme. This data is collected in Northern Ireland through the Life and Times Survey. Three indicators have been identified that will indicate a moving towards increased good relations and respect;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were 5 years ago; • The percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in 5 years' time;

ID of the specific objective	SO1
Title of the specific objective	The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitude to contribute to cohesive society
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of people who know quite a bit about the culture of some minority ethnic communities.

Table 3: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Specific objective		SO1 - The provision of direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between pupils and teachers from all backgrounds through collaboration between schools from different sectors in order to promote good relations and enhance children's skills and attitude to contribute to cohesive society					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
1.1	The percentage of schools in the last academic year that have been involved in shared education with another school	Percentage	58%	2016	69%	School Omnibus survey (NI)	Every 2 years
1.1b	The percentage of schools in the last academic year that have been involved in shared education with another school	Percentage	0	2018	7.5	DES School Survey (ROI)	Every 2 years

Specific objective		SO2 - Enhancing the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background and make a positive contribution to building a cohesive society.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
2.1	The percentage of 16 year olds who socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community	Percentage	Very often 43%; Sometimes 24%	2013	Very often 50%; Sometimes 28%	Young Life and Times Survey	Annually
2.2	The percentage of 16 year olds who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were 5 years ago	Percentage	Better 45%	2013	Better 50%	Young Life and Times Survey	Annually
2.3	The percentage of 16 year olds who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in 5 years' time	Percentage	Better 38%	2013	Better 45%	Young Life and Times Survey	Annually

Specific objective		SO3 - The creation of a more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
3.1	The percentage of people who would define the neighbourhood where they live as neutral	Percentage	64% always or most of the time; 22% sometimes;	2010	68% always or most of the time; 26% sometimes;	Life and Times Survey	Annually

Specific objective		SO3 - The creation of a more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
3.2	The percentage of people who would prefer to live in a neighbourhood with people of only their own religion	Percentage	20%	2013	16%	Life and Times Survey	Annually
3.3	The percentage of people who prefer to live in a mixed-religion environment	Percentage	71%	2013	75%	Life and Times Survey	Annually

Specific objective		SO4 - The promotion of positive relations characterised by respect, and where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
4.1	The percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were 5 years ago	Percentage	45% better	2013	52% better	Life and Times Survey	Annually
4.2	The percentage of people who think relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in 5 years' time	Percentage	40% better	2013	48% better	Life and Times Survey	Annually
4.3	The percentage of people who know quite a bit about the culture of some minority ethnic communities	Percentage	30% agree or strongly agree	2013	38% agree or strongly agree	Life and Times Survey	Annually

2.A.6 Actions to be supported under the investment priority (by investment priority)

2.A.6.1 A description of the type and examples of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives, including, where appropriate, identification of the main target groups, specific territories targeted and types of beneficiaries TTT

Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
Shared Education:	
<p>The Programme will provide opportunities for direct and sustained contact between children in shared education through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared partnerships between schools within Northern Ireland; • Cross-border, shared partnerships between schools in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland; and 	

Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared partnerships within the border counties of Ireland. <p>Shared education involves the organisation and delivery of education so that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets the needs of, and provides for the education together of, learners from all backgrounds and socio-economic status; • Involves schools and other education providers of differing ownership, sectoral identity and ethos, management type or governance arrangements; and • Delivers educational benefits to learners, promotes the efficient and effective use of resources, and promotes equality of opportunity, good relations, equality of identity, respect for diversity and community cohesion. <p>There are 1,187 schools in Northern Ireland, it is estimated that 425 schools have had little or no collaboration to date and are not currently participating in shared education initiatives. These schools will be the main target for the Programme. In the Border Region there are 646 schools. The Programme will focus on those schools closest to the border (101 schools within 5 miles), as they offer the greatest opportunity for cross border co-operation. Within the Border Region, there are 65 schools with a Protestant ethos which offer the opportunity for cross sectoral collaboration.</p> <p>The primary focus will be the direct and sustained contact between children of different backgrounds. To facilitate this contact, activities will be designed to incorporate a whole school approach involving teachers, classroom assistants, non-teaching staff, governors, pupils, families, wider communities, curriculum development, school policies and wider collaboration with the local community. The programme will bring together school children at early years, primary and post primary level. Collaborative partnerships may involve Further and Higher Education Colleges in Northern Ireland working with local schools to create opportunities for contact between children. Support may also be provided for partnerships between schools and youth services to create opportunities for contact between children.</p> <p>Activities will provide support to develop and deliver related teacher training initiatives. These activities create the opportunity for increased cross-border co-operation.</p>	

Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
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Activities will be supported that contribute to the following outputs:

- **The number of schools involved in shared education**
- **The number of trained teachers with the capacity to facilitate shared education**
- **The number of participants in shared education classrooms.**

The main beneficiaries of the programme will be pre-schools, primary schools, post primary schools and youth services. The programme will be open to a range of delivery bodies within the statutory and voluntary sectors that have the capacity to deliver projects of a significant scale. In particular schools who have not previously participated in shared education initiatives and those schools at a low level within the collaboration spectrum will be encouraged to participate. The programmes will be open to the participation of schools in all sectors, including the integrated sector.

Children and Young People:

The Programme will support interventions in the following areas:

- Projects targeting young people between the age of 14-24 years who are most disadvantaged/ excluded/ marginalised and who have deep social, emotional and good relations needs. Many of these young people are at risk of becoming engaged in anti- social, violent or dissident activity, and are disengaged from the peace process. It is anticipated many of these young people will not be in education, training or employment.
- Age appropriate interventions for children and young people in a range of 0-24 years to build capabilities for good relations, personal development and citizenship.

Key features of the project targeting young people between the ages of 14 - 24 years include:

Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
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- An initial pilot phase (Phase 1), targeting 1,875 individuals, with an independent evaluation and review in late 2018 to assess the effectiveness of the initiative and decide upon the need for a second phase (Phase 2). Additional resources may be allocated to this activity pending the consideration of the evaluation by the programme monitoring committee;
- Delivery on a cross border basis, creating opportunities for contact between young people in Northern Ireland and the Border Region;
- Within Northern Ireland all activity will be delivered on a shared basis which gives young people opportunity for sustained, purposeful interaction with others from a different background;
- Each participant will be assigned an individual mentor, and will participate in good relations, personal development and citizenship activities appropriate to their needs;
- Intervention for young people will generally last between 6 and 9 months, and will be of sufficient intensity to ensure the experience is transformative;
- The programme will utilise a professional youth development approach, delivered to an agreed set of standards by suitably skilled professionals.
- Funding from the PEACE Programme will not support the following: training for employment; stipend payments; international placements.
- Participants will be tracked for at least one year after leaving the programme;
- An independent evaluator will be appointed at the beginning of Phase 1 and will track progress, to inform the review in 2018.

Indicative actions to be funded will include:

- Support for a mentoring model, where each participant has access to a personal mentor;
- Shared youth programmes focused on good relations, citizenship and personal development, which may include; sport; drama; culture; language; entrepreneurial and volunteering activities; residential training activities; peer mentoring;
- Professional training for youth development practitioners, including cross- border professional development programmes to facilitate the transfer of knowledge, skills and experience;
- Robust independent monitoring and evaluation to determine the effectiveness of interventions.

Investment priority

9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)

Key features of the projects targeting young people between the ages of 0-24 include:

- Addressing the needs of local young people through specific actions identified in the local authority led action plans;
- All activity will be delivered on a shared basis which gives young people opportunity for sustained, purposeful interaction with others from a different background to have the capacity to change attitudes and behaviour.

Indicative actions to be funded include:

- Inclusive local community youth initiatives involving sport, arts, culture, language and the environment that promote positive relations through addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance;
- Age appropriate actions that address sectarianism and racism;
- Youth centred initiatives that address anti-social behaviour;
- Creation of opportunities for young people from different tradition, cultural background or political opinion to meet and develop positive relationships;
- Youth leadership and citizenship programmes that build capacity for a shared society;
- Short-term diversionary activities at times of high community tension such as residential or sporting activity, where these form part of a longer

Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
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term relationship building programme.

The main beneficiaries will be Local Authorities and the statutory and voluntary sectors organisations with the capacity to deliver appropriate interventions for children and young people, and in particular have the capacity to deliver services to young people with specified needs and/or those living in areas of disadvantage. These activities will contribute to the following outputs:

- **The number of participants aged 0 - 24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity**
- **The number of young people aged 14 - 24 who are most marginalised and disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity**

Shared Spaces and Services:

The programmes will promote a number of actions:

- New buildings and spaces with a transformative effect on local areas;
- Developing the shared aspect of existing neighbourhoods, public spaces and buildings;
- Shared services in relation to the provision of services for victims and survivors;

The Programme will support the development of capital build projects that demonstrate tangible progress in developing shared space and building a shared society. Projects will be designed to have a transformative effect locally as well as having a regional significance. Projects will incorporate high quality design and sustainable development principles, including measures to minimise carbon emissions.

In addition, the Programme will support a number of local initiatives with the aim of making public spaces in cities, towns and villages more inclusive; this will often involve addressing sensitive topics around parades, flags, emblems, graffiti and other issues which serve to intimidate and

Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
<p>make some members of society, whether based on religion, race or other factors, feel unwelcome in some areas.</p> <p>In some cases, activities may include managing dialogue, reconciliation and capacity building between interface communities; leading to the creation of a shared vision and conditions where communities feel it is safe and appropriate to proceed with the removal of interface barriers in their area.</p> <p>In recognition of the need and demand of those who have suffered from the trauma of the conflict, the Programme will develop capacity for services to meet the needs of victims and survivors. The Programme will use the statutory definition of victims and survivors as detailed in The Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006. Actions will focus on the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advocacy support: practical support for victims and survivors engaging with institutions, historical process and enquiries; • development of qualified assessors/ health and wellbeing case workers; identification and addressing needs of victims and survivors; • resilience programme to address the individual needs of victims and survivors, including Level 1 and Level 2 mental health interventions (see Annex 8); • development of capacity of the sector through training and development (to meet national and regional standards), research and improved regulation <p>These activities will contribute to the following outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital developments to create new shared spaces; • Local initiatives that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings; • Individuals in receipt of advocacy support; • Individuals in receipt of assessment /case work support /resilience support <p>The main beneficiaries will be statutory bodies, local authorities and the community/voluntary sector organisations with the necessary capacity to deliver shared spaces projects. To ensure coordination of services for victims and survivors the Victims and Survivors Service will be the single lead</p>	

Investment priority

9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)

partner for this part of the Programme.

Building Positive Relations:

The Programme will promote actions to develop good relations at a local and regional level. This will be achieved through the implementation of peace and reconciliation plans developed and implemented by local authority led partnerships. The partnerships will be inclusive in nature and will include representation from the community and voluntary sector; business; trade unions; and relevant public agencies. In addition some initiatives will be developed and implemented at a regional level.

Indicative actions to be funded include:

- The development of strong inclusive civic leadership, including increasing the capacity of marginalised groups to participate in peace and reconciliation activities:
 - conflict resolution and mediation at a local level;
 - events linked to the decade of commemorations that explore history in a sensitive manner and build mutual understanding;
 - sport, arts, culture including Irish and Ulster Scots language and environment projects (e.g. the enhancement of existing urban infrastructure or natural spaces) that promote positive relations through addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance
 - projects to facilitate personal interaction between residents and groups from divided neighbourhoods.

In all cases, projects will be inclusive in nature and will ensure meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between people of different backgrounds, and which have the capacity to change attitudes and behaviour. Initiatives should evidence a direct commitment to tackling real and complex issues, such as sectarianism and racism.

All projects will involve people from diverse backgrounds; in particular, cross-border activity will be supported and facilitated. The Programme will support actions to facilitate the full participation of women in local initiatives and should also include targeting those groups particularly impacted by

Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
<p>the legacy of the troubles/conflict such as victims and survivors and those communities with social low capital, and those identifiable groups and networks dealing with specific legacy issues such as young and older people, women, the faith community, victims and survivors, those suffering from physical or mental disability arising from the legacy of violence, ex-prisoners, displaced persons and former members of the security forces.</p> <p>Activities supported will contribute to the following programme outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Action Plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities; • Regional level projects that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities 	

2.A.6.2 Guiding principles for the selection of operations

Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
<p>All projects must positively support the core aims and objectives of the PEACE Programme as it seeks to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society through the promotion of reconciliation amongst all communities across Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.</p> <p>Projects must positively support actions to improve relationships between communities by addressing issues of trust, prejudice and intolerance.</p> <p>All projects will be required to be strictly non party political. Projects must take care to ensure party political neutrality in the manner which they go about their business.</p> <p>All operations will be selected following a robust and objective assessment process.</p> <p>The following principles will inform the assessment process:</p>	

Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each operation will have to demonstrate how they contribute to the results and outputs of the themes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Particular focus will be given to the direct contribution to peace and reconciliation. ○ Projects will have to demonstrate that they are creating opportunities for sustained meaningful and purposeful contact between people and groups of different backgrounds and in so doing contribute to the result and outputs of the call. 2. Quality of the project design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects will have to demonstrate a direct link between their proposed activities and the proposed impact of the project. ○ Particular attention will be given to measures to ensure the inclusion of the marginalised or other target groups. ○ Projects funded under Children and Young People (14-24 years) must clearly demonstrate that any potential duplication with other training initiatives targeting young people are fully addressed, with clear demarcation lines established and that robust and transparent monitoring and financial arrangements put in place ex ante to prevent duplication; ○ Projects funded to improve the health and wellbeing of Victims and Survivors must conform to the defined national standards (National Institute for Care Excellence) and regional standards (the Commission for Victims and Survivors minimum standard) of care and deliver consistently to the required standards. ○ Projects funded under shared spaces (capital build) will incorporate high quality design and sustainable development principles, including measures to minimise carbon emissions 3. Quality of the project team, partnership and implementation arrangements; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects will have to demonstrate that the project team have the right skills and experience to lead the project, and that the project structures will be able to deliver on the peace and reconciliation outputs. 4. Value for money; 5. Quality of cross community and cross-border co-operation with demonstrable added value; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cross border co-operation will be encouraged through the development of appropriate partnerships and implementation arrangements where these add value to the delivery of the Programme. In all cases including those projects implemented on a single jurisdiction basis, the project will have to demonstrate how they will effectively ensure participation from all communities in their activities. 6. Contribution towards sustainable development; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects will be encouraged to consider how their activity can be designed to positively contribute towards this horizontal principle. 7. Contribution towards equality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects will be encouraged to consider how their activity can be designed to positively contribute towards this horizontal principle. 	

2.A.6.3 Planned use of financial instruments (where appropriate)

Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
Not Applicable	

2.A.6.4 Planned use of major projects (where appropriate)

Investment priority	9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)
Not Applicable	

2.A.6.5 Output indicators (by investment priority)

Table 4: Common and programme-specific output indicators

Investment priority		9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting
CO38	Urban Development: Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas	Square meters	20,000.00	Monitoring Survey will be returned from all projects	Annually
CO39	Urban Development: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas	Square meters	20,000.00	Monitoring survey will be returned from all projects	Annually
1.1	The number of schools involved in shared education.	Schools	350.00	Monitoring survey will be returned from all projects	Annually
1.2	The number of trained teachers with the capacity to facilitate shared education.	Persons	2,100.00	Monitoring survey will be returned from all projects	Annually
1.3	The number of participants in shared education classrooms.	Pupil per school year	144,000.00	Monitoring survey will be returned from all projects	Annually
2.1a	The number of participants aged 0-24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity	Persons	21,000.00	Monitoring Survey will be returned from all projects	Annually for each year up to 2018
2.3	Phase 1. The number of young people aged 14 - 24 who are most marginalised and disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity	Persons	1,875.00	Monitoring survey will be returned from all projects	Annually for each year up to 2018
2.4	Phase 2. The number of young people aged 14 - 24 who are most marginalised and disadvantaged completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity.	Persons	5,525.00	Monitoring Survey will be returned from all projects	Annually for each year from 2019 to 2023

Investment priority		9f - Promoting social and economic stability in the regions concerned, notably by actions to promote cohesion between communities (ETC-PC)				
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting	
3.1	Capital developments to create new shared spaces.	Number	8.00	Individual transformative projects	Annually	
3.2	Local initiatives that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas/buildings.	Number	17.00	Individual development programmes–monitoring reports.	Annually	
3.3	Individuals in receipt of advocacy support	Number of persons	6,300.00	Programme Progress Report	Annually	
3.4	Individuals in receipt of assessment/case work support/resilience support	Number of persons	11,350.00	Programme Progress Report	Annually	
4.1	Local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities	Number	17.00	Programme Progress Report	Annually	
4.2	Regional level projects that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities	Number	20.00	Programme Progress Report	Annually	

2.A.7 Performance framework

Table 5: Performance framework of the priority axis

Priority axis		P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
1.3	O	The number of participants in shared education classrooms.	Pupil per school year	19,200	144,000.00	Annual monitoring survey to be administered to all funded programmes.	This indicator captures the main output of the SO. Target in line with phased growth of activity over the period.
2.1	O	Phase 1. The number of participants aged 0 -24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity	Persons	5,000	21,000.00	Annual monitoring survey to be administered to all funded programmes	This indicator captures the outputs of the SO. Milestone is estimate based on expenditure to 2018
3.1	O	Capital developments to create new shared spaces.	Number	0	8.00	Individual transformative projects.	Captures the number of transformative shared spaces created.
4.1	O	Local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons	Number	0	17.00	Programme Progress Report	Local Authority Action Plans to meet the SO

Priority axis		P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation					
ID	Indicator type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)	Source of data	Explanation of relevance of indicator, where appropriate
		from different communities					
FI1	F	The total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	Euro	23,322,193 (ERDF + match)	253,434,310.00	Certifying Authority	N+3 Profile
IS3.1	I	Value of letters of offer issued concerning projects intending to create new shared spaces	Euro	Letters of Offer issued to the value of €52,941,176		Managing Authority	
IS4.1	I	Local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities	Number of Letters of Offer issued	17	0.00	Programme Progress Report	

Additional qualitative information on the establishment of the performance framework

2.A.8 Categories of intervention

Categories of intervention corresponding to the content of the priority axis, based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and indicative breakdown of Union support

Tables 6-9: Categories of intervention

Table 6: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation
Code	Amount (€)
055. Other social infrastructure contributing to regional and local development	45,000,000.00
103. Sustainable integration into the labour market of young people, in particular those not in employment, education or training, including young people at risk of social exclusion and young people from marginalised communities, including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee	46,500,000.00

Priority axis	P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation
111. Combating all forms of discrimination and promoting equal opportunities	123,919,162.00

Table 7: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation
Code	Amount (€)
01. Non-repayable grant	215,419,162.00

Table 8: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation
Code	Amount (€)
05. Cooperation across national or regional programme areas in national context	215,419,162.00

Table 9: Dimension 6 Territorial delivery mechanisms

Priority axis	P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation
Code	Amount (€)
07. Not applicable	215,419,162.00

2.A.9 A summary of the planned use of technical assistance including, where necessary, actions to reinforce the administrative capacity of authorities involved in the management and control of the programmes and beneficiaries and, where necessary, actions to enhance the administrative capacity of relevant partners to participate in the implementation of programmes (where appropriate)

Priority axis:	P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation
Not Applicable	

2.B DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIORITY AXES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.B.1 Priority axis

ID	P2
Title	Technical Assistance

2.B.2 Fund and calculation basis for Union support

Fund	Calculation basis (total eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure)
ERDF	Public

2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
SO1	To ensure that the programme is implemented, monitored and inspected in an efficient and effective manner.	Not Applicable because the Union support to TA does not exceed EUR 15 million

2.B.4 Result indicators

Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Priority axis		SO1 - To ensure that the programme is implemented, monitored and inspected in an efficient and effective manner.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
SO2	To ensure that the programme is meeting its objectives by effective evaluation.	Not applicable because the Union support to TA does not exceed EUR 15 million

2.B.4 Result indicators

Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Priority axis		SO2 - To ensure that the programme is meeting its objectives by effective evaluation.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

2.B.3 Specific objectives and expected results

ID	Specific objective	Results that the Member States seek to achieve with Union support
SO3	To ensure that potential beneficiaries are aware of the opportunities presented by the programme and that the general public is aware of the outputs and results of the programme.	Not applicable because the Union support to TA does not exceed EUR 15 million.

2.B.4 Result indicators

Table 10: Programme-specific result indicators (by specific objective)

Priority axis		SO3 - To ensure that potential beneficiaries are aware of the opportunities presented by the programme and that the general public is aware of the outputs and results of the programme.					
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	Source of data	Frequency of reporting

2.B.5 Actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives (by priority axis)

2.B.5.1 Description of actions to be supported and their expected contribution to the specific objectives

Priority axis	P2 - Technical Assistance
<p><u>A summary of the description of technical assistance.</u></p> <p>Technical assistance will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the programme;• Ensure effective evaluations are carried out;• Ensure the communications objectives are met. <p>The arrangements for the implementation of the programme period 2007-2013 are judged as being effective. In particular the following points are noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The statutory basis for the SEUPB ensures a high level of cross-border co-operation between Northern Ireland and Ireland in the execution of the Managing Authority, Certifying Authority and Joint Secretariat functions. The activities of the programme are aligned to the agreed policy objectives of the North South Ministerial Council;• The arrangements for the Joint Secretariat have ensured that the Programme is fully committed and that the N+2 targets have been met in each year;• An open and transparent appeals process has been in operation and enjoys the confidence of applicants;• The arrangements for a central first level control function within the SEUPB has ensured timely processing and payment of claims and a error rate below the 2% materiality level in each year;• There have been no interruptions or suspensions to payments;• The Audit Authority functioning across the eligible area, without any additional national audit bodies has proved effective and cost efficient;	

Priority axis	P2 - Technical Assistance
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- The communication objectives have been met and the programme has a high profile within the region.
- However, a number of difficulties have been encountered during implementation:
- The time taken to access applications has been the subject of much comment during public consultation exercises. The Managing Authority considers the time taken to process applications is too long and is working with the Member States to develop a process which is shorter in duration (see section on reducing the administrative burden);
- The indicators and associated targets (2007-2013) for the programme had to be reviewed following the mid-term evaluation. An issue with quality assurance of data input was identified. Greater attention is required to ensure that targets are realistic and that systems are in place to ensure the quality assurance of data.
- The 2007-2013 programme would have benefited from thematic based evaluations that could have informed the on-going implementation of the Programme.
- Lead Partners reported that the financial verification processes resulted in a high administrative burden. Cost simplifications introduced towards the end of the programming period 2007-2013 were positively received. The Programme intends to extend the use of simplified costs in the new programming period. (see section on reducing the administrative burden);

Following this analysis it has been agreed to build on the strengths of existing arrangements by maintaining the overall programme structures that have proven to work effectively. The identified weakness will be addressed by the use of technical assistance.

The Managing Authority (MA) has a zero tolerance stance to fraud and currently has an Anti-fraud policy in operation; however this will be reviewed to ensure compliance with CPR Art. 125 (4)(C) and Member State Anti-fraud policy. The Anti-fraud policy will be a robust, structured and targeted policy which will:

- Set out the Managing Authority's responsibilities in respect of developing and maintaining effective controls to prevent fraud and ensuring that if fraud does occur, then it is detected without delay;
- Outline the responsibility of all Managing Authority staff in respect of ensuring internal control systems operate effectively within their area of work and outline the actions staff must take if they suspect fraud has occurred. This will include a commitment to provide fraud awareness training to all staff;
- Outline the responsibilities of the Audit Authority and Internal Audit in ensuring the adequacy of the control framework which the MA has

Priority axis	P2 - Technical Assistance
<p>put in place;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate a fraud Risk Assessment tool which will detail the types of risk which may occur, the likelihood of that risk occurring and the potential impact of that risk being realised. The tool will also detail recommended mitigating controls; • Detail the MA's fraud response plan, including its responsibility in respect of undertaking a prompt initial investigation, the formal process for notification of fraud, and, where required, the process of engagement with external/forensic investigating bodies to conduct further investigation; • Detail the remedial and disciplinary/corrective actions which will be implemented in the event of fraud being detected <p>Specific Objective 1: To ensure that the programme is implemented, monitored and inspected in an efficient and effective manner.</p> <p>The following actions will be supported in relation to this specific objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of staff and related costs necessary for the Managing Authority, Certifying Authority and Joint Secretariat to carry out its functions; • Contracting of services with external bodies/organisations in relation to the delivery of the programme; • Costs associated with the meeting of the Programme Monitoring Committee and its sub-committees/working groups; • Provision of support and advice to applicants and final beneficiaries on the horizontal principles of equality and sustainable development; • Technical costs associated with project assessment including specialised support and economic appraisal as may be required; • Development and management of central database and other costs associated with e-cohesion; • Support and training to all organisations using the central database, including lead partners, audit bodies and Certifying Authority; • Support and training to Lead Partners and Joint Secretariat in the collection and quality assurance of monitoring data; • Activities associated with management and including first level control activities; • Funding of the Audit Authority to carry out its functions. <p>Specific Objective 2: To ensure that the programme is meeting its objectives by effective evaluation.</p>	

The following actions will be funded in relation to this specific objective:

- The establishment of an evaluation plan to ensure the quality of evaluation carried out during the programming period;
- Across each of the individual specific objective areas, support will be provided for the creation of a structured, evidenced based evaluation programme;
- The establishment of robust monitoring methodologies, designed to evaluate programme impact will result in an evidence base to inform future policy.
- This evaluation and analysis will also extend to learning the lessons of PEACE I, PEACE II and PEACE III.
- Costs associated with bespoke programme studies identified during the programme period;
- Programme preparation including technical studies and public consultation;
- Monitoring and evaluation, including commissioning of specific reports.

Specific Objective 3: To ensure that potential beneficiaries are aware of the opportunities presented by the programme and that the general public is aware of the outputs and results of the programme.

The following actions will be funded in relation to this specific objective:

- Staff costs and associated expenses of the Managing Authority to carry out its functions in relation to information and communications;
- Exchange of information and best practice within the programme and between programmes;
- A major information activity to launch the Programme;
- Workshops, seminars, conferences and other costs (including all relevant audio-visual support) to inform potential beneficiaries about the funding opportunities;
- The monitoring, collation and independent evaluation of all media coverage generated by the programme;
- The design, print and advertising in relation to the promotion of the programme;
- Additional communications support (copywriting and PR) to promote the programme;

Priority axis	P2 - Technical Assistance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One major information activity per year to highlight programme achievements; • Distribution of information and publicity about the Programme and its impacts including the development and dissemination of examples of good practice to include examples in a widely spoken language of the EU other than that of the Member State (or States); • Production and dissemination of a citizens' summary of the annual and final implementation reports; • Design, maintenance, revision and promotion of a single website (http://www.seupb.eu) providing information on the Programme; • Support and assistance to final beneficiaries in the correct use of programme's logo/emblem and other references to the Programme by implementing bodies, funded operations and media relays; • Support and advice to final beneficiaries in the creation and placement of relevant posters, billboards and plaques referencing EU support and information about the operation; • Coordination of communication networks across the programme area to exchange results on the implementation of communication strategies; • Stakeholder surveys and other technical reports associated with evaluation of information and communications activity; • Funding for projects that collate, analyse and disseminate the experiences and lessons of the EU PEACE programmes; • Support for the exchange of best practice across regions in Europe and internationally, in relation to peace, conflict resolution and reconciliation; • Complaint resolution procedures.

2.B.5.2 Output indicators expected to contribute to results (by priority axis)

Table 11: Output indicators

Priority axis		P2 - Technical Assistance		
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	Source of data
5.1	Number of project beneficiaries training sessions.	Number of training sessions held	75.00	Managing Authority
5.2	Number of evaluations completed at Specific Objective level.	Number of evaluations	4.00	Managing Authority
5.3	Number of Managing Authority generated case studies which highlight the achievements of the Programme.	Case Studies	100.00	Managing Authority
5.4	Number of Programme and operation focused press releases issued to the media	Number of press releases	100.00	Managing Authority
5.5	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by technical assistance	Number of FTEs		Managing Authority

2.B.6 Categories of intervention

Corresponding categories of intervention based on a nomenclature adopted by the Commission, and an indicative breakdown of Union support.

Tables 12-14: Categories of intervention

Table 12: Dimension 1 Intervention field

Priority axis	P2 - Technical Assistance
Code	Amount (€)
121. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and inspection	11,450,158.00
122. Evaluation and studies	1,300,000.00
123. Information and communication	1,000,000.00

Table 13: Dimension 2 Form of finance

Priority axis	P2 - Technical Assistance
Code	Amount (€)
01.Non-repayable grant	13,750,158.00

Table 14: Dimension 3 Territory type

Priority axis	P2 - Technical Assistance
Code	Amount (€)
05.Cooperation across national or regional programme areas in national context	13,750,158.00

3. FINANCING PLAN

3.1 Financial appropriation from the ERDF (in €)

Table 15

Fund	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
ERDF	0.00	27,964,296.00	23,702,027.00	43,066,443.00	43,927,772.00	44,806,328.00	45,702,454.00	229,169,320.00
Total	0.00	27,964,296.00	23,702,027.00	43,066,443.00	43,927,772.00	44,806,328.00	45,702,454.00	229,169,320.00

3.2.A Total financial appropriation from the ERDF and national co-financing (in €)

Table 16: Financing plan

Priority axis	Fund	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of the national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	For information	
					National public funding (c)	National private funding (d)			Contributions from third countries	EIB contributions
P1	ERDF	Public	215,419,162.00	38,015,148.00	38,015,148.00	0.00	253,434,310.00	84.9999994081%		
P2	ERDF	Public	13,750,158.00	2,426,499.00	2,426,499.00	0.00	16,176,657.00	84.9999972182%		
Total	ERDF		229,169,320.00	40,441,647.00	40,441,647.00	0.00	269,610,967.00	84.9999992767%		
Grand total			229,169,320.00	40,441,647.00	40,441,647.00	0.00	269,610,967.00	84.9999992767%	0	0

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

3.2.B Breakdown by priority axis and thematic objective

Table 17

Priority axis	Thematic objective	Union support	National counterpart	Total funding
P1	Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	215,419,162.00	38,015,148.00	253,434,310.00
Total		215,419,162.00	38,015,148.00	253,434,310.00

Table 18: Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives

Priority axis	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives (€)	Proportion of the total allocation to the programme (%)
Total	0.00	0.00%

4. INTEGRATED APPROACH TO TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Description of the integrated approach to territorial development, taking into account the content and objectives of the cooperation programme, including in relation to regions and areas referred to in Article 174(3) TFEU, having regard to the Partnership Agreements of the participating Member States, and showing how it contributes to the accomplishment of the programme objectives and expected results

The programme recognises the particular territorial development challenges of the eligible region and the need for an integrated approach. The programme has been planned in co-operation with the other programmes funded by European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds, including the Investment for Jobs and Growth, the Rural Development Programmes and the INTERREG VA Programme (IRL-NI-SCOT). This co-operation is reflected in the UK Partnership Agreement (Northern Ireland Chapter) and the Ireland Partnership Agreement.

The responses to the public consultation noted agreement with the broad principles of community led development, i.e. a partnership approach to address local identified needs through a local plan. The PEACE Programme has a strong track record of working effectively with local authorities within the eligible area to fund investments through partnership structures led by local authorities.

Detailed consideration has been given as to the most effective mechanism to ensure a continued significant level of local authority involvement within the programme. It is important to take due account of the changes in local authorities in Northern Ireland as a result of the planned implementation of the Review of Public Administration in 2014-15. In Northern Ireland the reform has resulted in the formation of 11 councils from the existing 26 councils. These new councils will have enhanced responsibilities, which will be reflected in development of local community plans.

In Ireland, local government is also being reformed with the implementation of “Putting People First”. This has resulted in a significant programme of restructuring and change, including enhanced economic development responsibilities for local authorities.

The PEACE Programme will continue to use the partnership model for the delivery of a significant proportion of the programme. In particular the partnership model will have responsibility for the delivery of the following:

- Children and Young People;
- Shared Spaces;
- Building Positive Relations;

The local authorities will put in place partnership arrangements at the local level that will have responsibility for developing and implementing a PEACE Action Plan that

contributes directly to the outputs and results of the PEACE Programme. The PEACE Action Plan will be encouraged to have a cross-border dimension in keeping with the overall policy objectives of European Territorial Co-operation.

The Action Plan will be assessed by the Joint Secretariat and approved by the Programme Steering Committee.

Local Authorities will be required to ensure that activities are integrated with other initiatives that are being delivered at a local level by local authorities. The community planning approach which is being adopted in both jurisdictions offers the opportunity for this co-ordination.

Local Authorities will be encouraged to identify synergies between all ESI programmes being implemented locally, with regard to capturing any efficiency savings that may be possible through a shared services approach to project implementation.

The Managing Authority will issue detailed guidance outlining the requirements for the preparation and implementation of the Action Plan, including the partnerships arrangements that are to be put in place.

4.1 Community-led local development (where appropriate)

Approach to the use of community-led local development instruments and principles for identifying the areas where they will be implemented

Not Applicable

4.2 Integrated actions for sustainable urban development (where appropriate)

Principles for identifying the urban areas where integrated actions for sustainable urban development are to be implemented and the indicative allocation of the ERDF support for these actions

Not Applicable

Table 19: Integrated actions for sustainable urban development – indicative amounts of ERDF support

Indicative amount of ERDF support (€)
0.00

4.3 Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) (where appropriate)

Approach to the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) (as defined in Article 36 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013) other than in cases covered by 4.2, and their indicative financial allocation from each priority axis

Not Applicable

Table 20: Indicative financial allocation to ITI other than those mentioned under point 4.2 (aggregate amount)

Priority axis	Indicative financial allocation (Union support) (€)
Total	0.00

4.4 Contribution of planned interventions towards macro-regional and sea basin strategies, subject to the needs of the programme area as identified by the relevant Member States and taking into account, where applicable, strategically important projects identified in those strategies (where appropriate)

(Where Member States and regions participate in macro-regional and sea basin strategies)

The UK and Ireland make up two of the five Atlantic Member States. As a result both Member States have been involved in the development of the Action Plan for a Maritime Strategy in the Atlantic Area.

The Atlantic Action Plan identified four priorities:

- Promoting entrepreneurship and innovation;
- Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment;
- Improve accessibility and connectivity;
- Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development.

In response to the challenges and history of the programme area, the PEACE Programme is a distinctive programme to contribute to social and economic stability, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities.

The Programme will not make a direct contribution to the achievement of the Atlantic Action Plan, but it will make an overall contribution to sustaining regional stability, and in so doing will contribute to a context which will facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan.

5. IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS FOR THE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

5.1 Relevant authorities and bodies

Table 21: Programme authorities

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)
Managing authority	Special EU Programmes Body	Mark Feeney
Certifying authority	Special EU Programmes Body	Gina McIntyre
Audit authority	Department of Finance in Northern Ireland	Fergal McAnaney

The body to which payments will be made by the Commission is:

- the Managing authority
 the Certifying authority

Table 22: Body or bodies carrying out control and audit tasks

Authority/body	Name of authority/body and department or unit	Name of the person responsible for the authority/body (position or post)
Body or bodies designated to carry out control tasks	Special EU Programmes Body	Alistair Mackenzie
Body or bodies designated to be responsible for carrying out audit tasks	Department of Finance in Northern Ireland	Fergal McAnaney

5.2 Procedure for setting up the joint secretariat

In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013: Article 123 (1): the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is the designated Managing Authority of the Programme.

The SEUPB is one of the six cross-border Bodies set up under the “Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland establishing implementing bodies” signed on 8 March 1999 (the British-Irish Agreement of 8 March 1999). The Agreement was given domestic effect, North and South, by means of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 respectively.

In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013: Article 23 (2) the Managing Authority has agreed with the Member States that the Joint Secretariat (JS) for the programme will be part of the SEUPB.

The JS shall have the following functions:

- assist the Managing Authority and the Monitoring Committee in carrying out their respective functions;
- provide information to potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under the Programme;
- assist beneficiaries in the implementation of operations.

A memorandum of understanding will be issued to the JS from the Managing Authority delegating their roles and responsibilities.

The SEUPB will allocate sufficient staffing and financial resources to the JS to enable it to carry out its functions. These resources will be agreed with the Member States as part of the approval of the Corporate and Business plans for the SEUPB.

5.3 Summary description of the management and control arrangements

In accordance with the general principles for management and control systems as identified in Article 72 of regulation (EU) 1303/2013, this section will describe the following:

- Overview of responsibilities;
- The Monitoring Committee;
- The Managing Authority;
- Financial Control Unit;
- The Joint Secretariat;
- The Certifying Authority, including financial flows;
- Data management systems;
- Use of intermediate bodies;
- Audit arrangements;
- Irregularities and fraud.

Overview of responsibilities

The Member State roles will be exercised by the Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland. These Departments are the sponsor departments for the SEUPB. A Financial Memorandum governs the relationships between the two government departments and the SEUPB.

The Certifying and Managing Authority will be functionally independent of each other but both will be located within one organisation, the SEUPB. The Managing Authority will be assisted in carrying out its functions by the Joint Secretariat.

There is a strict separation of functions within the SEUPB. The organisation is divided into three Directorates, namely, the Managing Authority, Corporate Services (which acts as Certifying Authority) and the Joint Secretariat. Each Director is responsible to the Chief Executive who acts as the overall accounting officer for the Programmes. The organisation is structured in this way to ensure functional separation of responsibilities and to reflect the necessary regulatory requirements.

The Audit Authority is functionally independent of the SEUPB. The Audit Authority is a separate unit within the Department of Finance and Personnel.

Monitoring Committee

In accordance with Article 47 and Article 110 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, a Programme Monitoring Committee will be established by the Member States to monitor the implementation of the Programme. The Monitoring Committee will be set up within three months of formal approval of the Programme.

The composition and operation of the Monitoring Committee will reflect the requirements including the code of conduct on partnership as detailed in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014.

The Monitoring Committee will draw up and adopt its own rules of procedures and agree them with the Managing Authority. At its first meeting, the Committee shall approve detailed provision for the proper and efficient discharge of the duties assigned to it, including the frequency of its meetings, which will be not less than once per year.

The Monitoring Committee will be chaired by the Managing Authority in accordance with the provisions of the North/South Co-Operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British –Irish Agreement Act 1999.

The Monitoring Committee will include balanced representation from across the eligible region including representatives of the Member States; economic and social partners; relevant bodies representing civil society, environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, bodies promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination; and locally elected representatives. Particular effort will also be made to promote the balanced participation of women and men. The EU Commission shall participate in an advisory capacity.

Non-Permanent Members or other relevant organisations may be invited by the Programme Monitoring Committee to attend meetings in response to specific agenda items. Other interested parties will be invited to attend as observers.

The names of the members of the Monitoring Committee will be published on the SEUPB website.

The Monitoring Committee may be assisted by a number of working groups. The membership and remit of these groups will be proposed by the Monitoring Committee and may operate on a limited or long-term basis.

The Managing Authority will be responsible for the preparation of documentation relating to Monitoring Committee meetings including reports, agendas and summary records of meetings. In particular, the Monitoring Committee will:

- Meet at least once a year and review implementation of the programme and progress towards achieving its objectives having due regard to the financial data,

common and programme specific indicators and milestones defined in the performance framework;

- Examine all issues that affect the performance of the programme including the conclusions of any performance reviews;
- Make observations to the Managing Authority regarding the implementation and evaluation of the programme including actions relating to the reduction of the administrative burden on beneficiaries. The Monitoring Committee shall monitor actions as a result of its observations;
- Establish a Steering Committee(s) to select operations for funding in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EU) 1299 /2013.
- Review the implementation of the Communication Strategy;
- Review the actions in relation to Equality and Sustainable Development;

The Monitoring Committee shall examine and approve:

- The methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations;
- The annual and final implementation reports;
- The evaluation plan and any amendments to the plan;
- The communication strategy and any amendments to the strategy;
- Any proposal by the Managing Authority to amend the programme.

Managing Authority

The Managing Authority is overseen by a Director who is responsible for ensuring that all functions of the Managing Authority are implemented in full and in accordance with the EU Regulations and programme rules. The Managing Authority will delegate the implementation of some of its functions to the Joint Secretariat and the Financial Control Unit as detailed under the respective sections.

In accordance with Article 125 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 and Article 23 of Regulation (EU) 1299/2013 the Managing Authority will carry out the following functions:

- Upon adoption of the CP ensure a formal Programme Launch;
- Ensure the development of a Communications Plan within six months of the CP adoption;
- Ensure that a complaints procedure is in place and is available on the website;
- Produce Annual Implementation Reports by 31st May, from 2016 onwards;
- Support the work of the Monitoring Committee and provide it with the information it requires to carry out its tasks, in particular data relating to the progress of the Cooperation Programme in achieving its objectives, financial data and data relating to indicators and milestones;
- Draw up and, after approval by the Monitoring Committee, submit to the Commission annual and final implementation reports;
- Make available to intermediate bodies and beneficiaries information that is relevant to the execution of their tasks and the implementation of operations respectively;

- Establish a system to record and store, in computerised form, data on each operation necessary for monitoring, evaluation, financial management, verification and audit;
- Draw up and, once approved, ensure that appropriate selection procedures and criteria are applied that ensure the contribution of operations to the achievement of the specific objectives and results of the relevant priority axes; are non-discriminatory and transparent; and take into account the general principles of equality between men and women and sustainable development;
- Ensure that operations selected for support do not include activities which were part of an operation which has been or should have been subject to a procedure of recovery in accordance with Article 61 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 following the relocation of a productive activity outside the programme area;
- Draw up an evaluation plan and submit to the Monitoring Committee no more than one year after the approval of the programme in accordance with Article 114 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013;
- Put in place effective and proportionate anti-fraud measures taking into account the risks identified;
- Draw up the management declaration and annual summary referred to in Article 59 (5) (a) and (b) of the Financial Regulation.
- Ensure compliance with the information and publicity requirements laid down in Article 115 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.
- Ensure that the Certifying Authority receives all necessary information on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification.

The Managing Authority will delegate functions through service level agreements to the Financial Control Unit and Joint Secretariat. The Managing Authority will retain the overall responsibility for the delivery of these functions.

The SEUPB Complaints Procedure addresses two types of complaint: Complaints relating to services provided by the SEUPB and also Complaints relating to projects in receipt of funding.

Both types of complaint follow a similar process for resolution:

- If the complainant has liaised with the Lead Partner/SEUPB directorate to resolve the matter, but the outcome has not been satisfactory, they should submit their complaint to the Complaints Officer, either by telephone, email, written correspondence or by completing the relevant Complaints form which can be found at www.seupb.eu. The complaint will be acknowledged in writing within 5 working days.
- The appropriate officer will investigate the complaint and will provide a response no later than 8 weeks from the receipt of the complaint.
- If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of the investigation they will be offered the opportunity to appeal to the Chief Executive and, following that, the respective Ombudsman for Northern Ireland or Ireland.
- A Whistleblower policy is in place and will treat any whistleblower complaints in compliance with this policy, as far as possible maintaining the anonymity of the whistleblower.

- The complaints procedure also provides details of the dedicated telephone number and email address for any complaints regarding funding being utilised in a potentially fraudulent manner.
- The SEUPB Complaints Procedure is without prejudice to any mechanism or process for legal redress at national level, in particular with regard to unsuccessful applicants.

In addition all applicants will have a right to request information in case the maximum processing times published in the calls are exceeded.

Applicants also have a right of a review of any decision by the Steering Committee to reject an application. The review panel will be independent of the original Steering Committee.

Financial Control Unit

The Financial Control Unit will act as the Controller in accordance with Article 23(4) of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013. The legislative basis of the SEUPB enables it to perform the functions of the Financial Controller throughout the eligible area.

The main role of the Financial Control Unit is to ensure that administrative pre-payment verifications and on-the-spot verifications are carried out in accordance with Article 125 (4 & 5) of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013. Specifically, the FCU will:

- Verify that the co-financed products and services have been delivered and that expenditure declared by the beneficiaries has been paid and that it complies with applicable Union and national law, the Cooperation Programme and the conditions for support of the operation;
- Ensure that beneficiaries involved in the implementation of operations reimbursed on the basis of eligible costs actually incurred maintain either a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code for all transactions relating to an operation;
- Set up procedures to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure an adequate audit trail are set up in accordance with requirements;
- Carry out administrative verifications in respect of each application for reimbursement;
- Carry out on-the-spot verifications of operations, based on sampling informed by the principles of proportionality and risk.

The final beneficiary will receive payment no later than 90 days from the submission of the payment claim, subject to the availability of funds, in accordance with Article 132 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013.

Joint Secretariat

The Joint Secretariat will carry out the following functions:

- Creation of an operation pipeline by issuing calls for proposals in line with the criteria defined in the Cooperation Programme;
- Provide information to potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities;
- Assess operations for consideration by the relevant Steering Committee;
- Satisfy itself that the beneficiary has the administrative, financial and operational capacity to fulfil the conditions for support before approval of the operation;
- Satisfy itself that, where the operation has started before the submission of an application for funding, applicable Union and national rules relevant for the operation have been complied with;
- Ensure that selected operations falls within the scope of the Programme and can be attributed to a category of intervention;
- Ensure that successful operations are provided with a contract setting out the conditions for support including the specific requirements concerning the products or services to be delivered, the financing plan, and the time-limit for execution;
- Assist beneficiaries in the implementation of operations;
- Maintaining monitoring records on behalf of the Programme and entering these into a database system.

The JS will take necessary steps to ensure partners are aware of their obligations with regard to: the call for proposals; data protection; confidentiality; and conflict of interest as required in the code of conduct on partnership as detailed in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014.

Certifying Authority

The SEUPB is designated as the Certifying Authority for the Programme. The Certifying Authority and the Managing Authority will be functionally independent of each other but both will be located within the SEUPB.

In accordance with Article 126 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, the SEUPB in its capacity as Certifying Authority shall be responsible for:

- Drawing up and submitting to the Commission payment applications and certifying that these result from reliable accounting systems, are based on verifiable supporting documents and have been subject to verifications by the Managing Authority;
- Drawing up the accounts referred to in Article 59 (5) (a) of the Financial Regulation;
- Certifying the completeness, accuracy and veracity of the accounts and that the expenditure entered in the accounts complies with applicable Union and national rules and has been incurred in respect of operations selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the Cooperation Programme and complying with Union and national rules;

- Ensuring that there is a system which records and stores, in computerised form, accounting records for each operation, and which supports all the data required for drawing up payment applications and accounts, including records of amounts recoverable, amounts recovered and amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation or Cooperation Programme;
- Ensuring for the purposes of drawing up and submission of payment applications that it has received adequate information from the Managing Authority on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure;
- Taking account when drawing up and submitting payment applications of the results of all audits carried out by or under the responsibility of the Audit Authority;
- Maintaining accounting records in a computerised form of expenditure declared to the Commission and the corresponding public contribution paid to beneficiaries;
- Keeping an account of amounts recoverable and of amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation. Amounts recovered shall be repaid to the general budget of the Union prior to the closure of the operational programme by deducting them from the next statement of expenditure.

The Certifying Authority will receive ERDF initial pre-financing and annual pre-financing amounts as detailed in Article 134 of regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013. The SEUPB will reimburse the Member States with the applicable proportion of that payment and all subsequent advance payments and interim payments. The Accountable Departments in Northern Ireland and Ireland will provide budgetary allocations to SEUPB. The Accountable Departments will forward cash to the SEUPB as detailed in a Service Level Agreement to enable payments to be made to operations. The budget and cash provided by the Accountable Department will cover the full value of the ERDF component of the Programme and any match funding as may be necessary.

The Certifying Authority will submit interim payments claims to the Commission on a regular basis, and submit the final application for an interim payment by 31 July following the end of the previous accounting year, in accordance with Article 135 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013.

The Certifying Authority, on behalf of the Managing Authority, will make payments to final beneficiaries upon receipt of a duly verified claim by the Financial Control Unit.

Data Management

In accordance with Article 122 (3) of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 the Managing Authority will ensure the installation, operation and interconnection of computerised systems for the management, monitoring, audit, control and evaluation of the Programme. This will facilitate the exchange of information between the Managing Authority, Certifying Authority, Audit Authority, Intermediate Bodies and beneficiaries by 31 December 2015 at the latest.

This system, which was formally procured during 2015, will be a database-driven web-based system hosted on a 'failsafe' hosting environment, capable of handling a required number of concurrent users.

The system will be a shared system between the INTERREG and PEACE Programmes and other ESI funded programmes in Northern Ireland. The Department of Finance and Personnel in Northern Ireland will have lead responsibility for the development and procurement of the system.

The system will be used to collect essential financial and non-financial monitoring data. The first level of control function will be extended to include the quality assurance of data input by the Lead Partner in relation to monitoring data. This is an important aspect of ensuring the quality assurance of data. Staff and lead partners will be trained accordingly.

In response to issues raised in the mid programme evaluation of the PEACE III Programme regarding programme indicator data quality, SEUPB has taken the following steps:

- Programme indicators will be an integral part of the call for applications and applicants must demonstrate, in their application, how their project will contribute to the targets applicable to the Thematic Objective to which they are applying, rather than selecting indicators at the post-award stage;
- There will be fewer and more focused indicators which will enable closer monitoring of achievement;
- Guidance on the definition of indicators will be released as part of the call for applications with supporting guidance on effective monitoring released post award;
- Quality assurance of achievements will be undertaken by the Lead Partner on a quarterly basis as part of the project management cycle; and
- An annual quality assurance review will be undertaken by the Managing Authority and necessary follow-up work will be initiated.

All operations funded under the Cooperation Programme will be recorded onto the system. This includes the recording of all stages of the application / operation life-cycle and all transactions associated with approved operations.

The system will also provide input data for use by programme authorities when communicating with the European Commission using the web interface of the Commission's electronic data exchange systems (SFC 2014).

Audit Authority

The Audit Authority for the Programme will be a unit designated for this purpose within the Department of Finance and Personnel for Northern Ireland. The Audit Authority is functionally independent from the Managing Authority and the Financial Control Unit.

The Audit Authority will carry out the functions as detailed in Article 127 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, namely:

- Ensuring that audits are carried out on the proper functioning of the management and control system of the Cooperation Programme and on an appropriate sample of operations on the basis of the declared expenditure. The declared expenditure shall be audited based on a representative sample and as a general rule on statistical sampling methods. There is provision to apply a non-statistical sampling method which may be used on the professional judgment of the Audit Authority in duly justified cases.
- Ensuring that where audits are carried out by a body other than the Audit Authority, any such body has the necessary functional independence.
- Ensuring that that audit work takes account of internationally accepted audit standards.
- Preparing an audit strategy for performance audits, within eight months of adoption of an operational programme. The audit strategy shall set out the audit methodology, the sampling method for audits on operations and the planning of audits in relation to the current accounting year and the two subsequent accounting years. The audit strategy shall be updated annually from 2016 until and including 2022.
- Draw up an audit opinion in accordance with Article 59 (5) (b) of the Financial Regulation.
- Draw up a control report setting out the main findings, including deficiencies found in the management and control systems, of the audits carried out and the proposed and implemented corrective actions.

A combined audit strategy will be developed which covers the PEACE Programme and the INTERREG Programme for the Border Region, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland.

The Member States have agreed that the Audit Authority referred to above, will have the authority to carry out its duties directly in all jurisdictions of the eligible area without the establishment of a group of auditors drawn from the two Member States (Article 25 of the Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013).

Irregularities and Recoveries

The definition of an ‘irregularity’ is any breach of Union law, or of national law relating to its application, resulting from an act or omission by an economic operator involved in the implementation of the ESI Funds, which has, or would have, the effect of prejudicing the budget of the Union by charging an unjustified item of expenditure to the budget of the Union.

The Managing Authority will put robust systems in place to detect, record, report and follow-up cases. These systems will be tested during checks performed as part of the first and second level of control. This testing will be further augmented through the role of the Audit Authority.

Identified irregularities will be recorded in sufficient detail to check whether there is any evidence of a breakdown of systems or a need to take action to correct emerging systemic weaknesses in programme management and control arrangements.

The Managing Authority will ensure that any money paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead beneficiary in accordance with Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013.

In compliance with Article 126 (h) of the Regulation (EU) NO. 1303/2013, where the processing of an irregularity results in the recovery of funds from an operation, the Certifying Authority will keep account of amounts recoverable and amounts withdrawn following cancellation of all or part of the contribution for an operation. Amounts recovered shall be repaid to the budget of the Union prior to the closure of the Cooperation Programme by deducting them from the subsequent statement of expenditure.

5.4 Apportionment of liabilities among participating Member States in case of financial corrections imposed by the managing authority or the Commission

When a financial correction is attributable to a named operation, the Managing Authority will ensure that any money paid as a result of an irregularity is recovered from the lead beneficiary in accordance with Article 27 of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013.

If the Managing Authority is unsuccessful in securing repayment from the lead beneficiary, the Member State on whose territory the beneficiary concerned is allocated shall reimburse the Managing Authority any amounts unduly paid. The Managing Authority shall be responsible for the reimbursement of any monies to the general budget of the Union.

In cases where the financial correction is not attributable to a named operation, as may be the case for systematic irregularities and corrections imposed by the Commission in accordance with Article 144 Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2103, the Member States shall make provision for repayment to the Union of any monies unduly paid, based on proportions of the national ERDF allocations made to the programme in accordance with Article 4 of regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013.

5.5 Use of the Euro (where appropriate)

Method chosen for the conversion of expenditure incurred in another currency than the Euro

As per Article 28(b) of Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013 and Article 133 of Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013, expenditure that is incurred in a currency other than euro by the beneficiary shall be converted to euro using the monthly exchange rate of the Commission, in the month during which the expenditure is submitted for verification to the Financial Control Unit. This conversion will be verified by the Financial Control Unit.

The Managing Authority / JS will issue letters of offer in the currency identified for the Lead Beneficiary.

5.6 Involvement of partners

Actions taken to involve the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 in the preparation of the cooperation programme, and the role of those partners in the preparation and implementation of the cooperation programme, including their involvement in the monitoring committee

The SEUPB co-ordinated the preparation of the Programme. This was carried out in conjunction with the preparation of the EU Programme for INTERREG Programme.

To facilitate a partnership approach, the SEUPB established a Programme Development Steering Group (PDSG) to oversee the drafting and development of both programmes. This partnership included the range of stakeholders consistent with Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, with representatives comprising the Member States (NI / Ireland / Scotland), local government, social partners and the community and voluntary sector. In order to ensure further stakeholder participation, additional informal sub groups were established to provide input on the following topics: the selection of themes; delivery mechanisms; sustainable development; and equality. The PDSG met on 10 occasions during the programme preparation stage. A full list of membership of the Programme Development Steering Group is included in section 9.

The SEUPB held a large number of bi-lateral meetings with interested parties including government agencies and departments with policy responsibility for emerging themes.

Wider stakeholder engagement was facilitated through two public consultations. The first public consultation was held in 2012. It presented an analysis of the EU Cohesion Policy draft regulations and the implications for the development of cross-border programmes. This consultation also sought views on the content, management and delivery of the new INTERREG programme. A total of almost 1,000 stakeholders participated in 20 consultation events across the eligible area and 173 written submissions were received. The SEUPB published a summary of the responses to the consultation on 22 February 2013 -http://www.seupb.eu/Libraries/2014-2020_Programmes/2014-2020_Programmes_130305_Final_Summary_of_Consultation_Responses.sflb.ashx. These responses informed the drafting of the cooperation programme.

To facilitate the first consultation, stakeholders were invited to comment on three programme specific considerations; namely;

- Lessons Learnt from PEACE III;
- Themes for PEACE; and
- Delivery Structures.

Furthermore, the stakeholders were also invited to comment on general issues around programme administration i.e. application, assessment and approval process; project

finance and match funding; reduction of the administrative burden; and equality and the environment.

Direct consultation and discussion was also held with the government departments, North and South, and representatives of all sectors, including business, rural, agricultural, community and voluntary, trade unions and public sector organisations.

All stakeholders were encouraged to respond to the consultation through the SEUPB website or by written submission; with 76 PEACE-specific written responses received, in addition to a further 49 written responses covering both the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.

Existing documentation on PEACE, written by external parties, was also reviewed, with the key recommendations and issues informing the consultation exercise and the development of the programme proposals.

A second statutory public consultation was carried out from 03 June 2014 to 29 July 2014. This consultation was held on the draft Cooperation Programme, together with the following supporting documentation: the Ex Ante Evaluation; the Strategic Environmental Assessment; and the Section 75 Considerations.

The purpose of the second consultation was to provide the general public and other key stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on any aspect of the draft Cooperation Programmes (CPs), the Section 75 Considerations and the Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) for both Programmes. A total of almost 600 stakeholders participated in nine consultation events across the eligible area and 333 written submissions were received.

To facilitate the second consultation, the general public and key stakeholders were invited to provide their views in terms of the following programme considerations;

- The content of the draft CP including the types activities to be supported;
- Section 75 considerations & Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs); and
- Measures proposed to reduce the administrative burden placed on beneficiaries, which included the measures proposed to reduce the processing times associated with project assessment and approval.

All stakeholders were encouraged to respond to the consultation through the SEUPB website or by written submission; with 117 PEACE-specific responses received, in addition to a further 115 responses covering both the PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. These responses informed the drafting of the cooperation programme.

During this period, continued consultation and discussion was also held with the government departments, North and South, and representatives of all sectors, including business, rural, agricultural, community and voluntary, trade unions and public sector organisations.

A summary of both consultations (2012 & 2014) is included as an Annex 1.

To ensure that the partnership approach continues throughout the implementation of the programme and in accordance with Article 5 of Commission Regulation (EU) No: 1303/2013, the cross-border Monitoring Committee will include balanced representation from across the eligible region including representatives of the Member States; economic and social partners; relevant bodies representing civil society, environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, bodies promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination; and locally elected representatives.

Accordingly, the Monitoring Committee shall delegate responsibility for the selection of projects to a Steering Committee(s) as enabled by Article 47 of Commission Regulation (EU) No: 1299/2013.

The Steering Committee(s) will be constituted on a cross-border basis, reflect the principles of partnership, fully reflect the balanced representation of the Monitoring Committee and have the necessary technical expertise and independence to assess operations for funding.

6. COORDINATION

The mechanisms that ensure effective coordination between the ERDF, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and other Union and national funding instruments, including the coordination and possible combination with the Connecting Europe Facility, the ENI, the European Development Fund (EDF) and the IPA and with the EIB, taking into account the provisions laid down in the Common Strategic Framework as set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Where Member States and third countries participate in cooperation programmes that include the use of ERDF appropriations for outermost regions and resources from the EDF, coordination mechanisms at the appropriate level to facilitate effective coordination in the use of these resources

The following programmes are of particular note for coordination with the PEACE Programme;

- INTERREG VA Programme Northern Ireland, Ireland Scotland;
- Investment for Growth and Jobs: Northern Ireland, including ESF funding;
- Border Midland and West Regional Programme; ESF Ireland programme
- Transnational programmes: Northern Periphery and Arctic; Atlantic Area; North West Europe;
- Interregional Programme – INTERREG Europe;
- Rural Development Programmes.

In addition, the programme area further benefits from European funding through the International Fund for Ireland. The Fund promotes similar and complementary activities to PEACE.

The following initiatives are not relevant in relation to co-ordination mechanisms with this programme: Cohesion Fund; Connecting Europe; European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI); European Development Fund (EDF); Instrument for pre-Accession Assistance (IPA); European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Programmes; and competitive programmes such as Horizon 2020 and LIFE.

The Partnership Agreements between the European Commission and UK (Northern Ireland Chapter) and Ireland present a framework for the co-ordination of the programmes funded by ESI funds at national level.

At a regional level the SEUPB has coordinated the development of this programme in close consultation with the relevant authorities in Northern Ireland and Ireland who are responsible for the development of other programmes. To facilitate this process in Northern Ireland, the Department of Finance and Personnel chair regular meetings between the respective Managing Authorities, including the SEUPB. In addition, the SEUPB attend the Consultative Partnership Group in Northern Ireland which leads the development of the programme for growth and jobs. In Ireland, the SEUPB is a member of the National Strategic Reference Framework Monitoring Committee that co-ordinates

the development of all ESI funded programmes, including the Border Midlands and West Regional Programme.

The Programme Development Steering Group for the PEACE Programmes included representation from all the relevant national and regional bodies in the eligible region with programme planning responsibility.

The INTERREG and PEACE Programmes share the same Managing Authority, Certifying Authority, Joint Secretariat and Audit Authority. There will be complementarity between the memberships of the respective Monitoring Committees. There has been joint planning and consultation mechanism for both the INTERREG and PEACE Programmes. There will be shared systems and procedures for the implementation of the two ETC programmes.

The SEUPB will provide the Regional Contact Point for Northern Ireland for the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. The SEUPB will liaise with the national contact points for the other transnational programmes. This will assist in building a regional awareness of the full range of funding opportunities available under ETC programmes and facilitating relevant participation by beneficiaries in the appropriate programme.

The aim of this coordination mechanism is to ensure maximum complementarity between programmes. All ESI funded programmes have a requirement to demonstrate focus and concentration. All programmes are based on a common list of thematic objectives, however the distinctive nature of the investment priority for the PEACE Programme ensures there is limited potential for duplication of activity. Whilst not all activities may be cross-border in nature, (Article 12 Regulation (EU) No. 1299/2013) the programme will encourage the adoption of cross-border approaches to addressing local needs. This will distinguish the programme activities from other regional programmes. Other relevant regional programmes bodies and policy departments will be consulted during project selection to ensure maximum levels of coordination with regional programmes.

The ESF funded programmes in Northern Ireland and Ireland have identified young people in need of education training and employment as a target group. The development of actions under the specific objective for children and young people have been developed in close consultation with the ESF managing authorities to ensure there is no duplication of provision. The Managing Authority for the PEACE programme, in conjunction with the Joint Secretariat, will ensure that during the assessment of applications and during implementation, there will be no duplication in the provision of funding.

In the PEACE Programme (Young people 14-24 years) a lead partner, with responsibility for coordination role will be appointed following an open call for application. Among other responsibilities this Lead Partner will:

- Define and detail all interventions to ensure that programme objectives are achieved and that there is no duplication with other training programmes, including ESF programmes;
- Put in place personal mentors for PEACE participants. The personal mentors may consider it appropriate that the young person participating on the PEACE programme would also benefit from participation on other training / educational activities not funded by the Programme.
- Quality assure the on-going delivery of the PEACE funded actions;
- Maintain on-going evidential records that clearly identify and track all participants ensuring there is no duplication of service provision or funding;

PEACE and ESF Programmes have a number of important features which relate to the specific objective for Children and Young people:

- The PEACE Programme will target individuals in the age range 14-24, that are most disadvantaged/ excluded/ marginalised and who have deep social, emotional and good relations needs. The ESF Programmes targets young people in the age range of 16-24 who are NEET. Whilst there is overlap between these two cohorts of young people, the targeting of participants in PEACE is distinctive;
- There will be a tracking and monitoring systems established with unique identifiers for all participants to ensure there is no duplication of provision;
- The PEACE Programme will fund the following activities only: good relations, personal development and citizenship. The PEACE Programme will not fund any activities that are directly linked to employment or vocational training. The Managing Authority for ESF has agreed to make this distinction clear in any future calls for ESF funding.
- The PEACE Programme will not provide any match funding or other support to ESF funded projects;
- Lead Partners for PEACE IV will be appointed following an open call for applications managed by the Joint Secretariat. All first level control activities in relation to PEACE will be carried out by the SEUPB. In the event of a Lead Beneficiary managing both ESF and PEACE funds, the provider will have to demonstrate robust and verifiable monitoring and financial systems that clearly identify and separate PEACE funds and generate a clear audit trail for all monies. This requirement will be included in the selection criteria.

The Managing Authorities for PEACE and ESF will develop detailed procedures to prevent duplication of funding or provision. These procedures will form part of the management and control system, and therefore will be subject to audits commissioned by the Audit Authority (Regulation(EU) No 1303/2014 Article 127 (1)) and may be included in the sample of operations.

The Programme has been planned in consultation with the IFI and has taken due regard as to the likely profile of funding available from the Fund over the programme period. The proposed activity has been informed by the extensive experience of the Fund in implementing projects in the relevant policy areas and the best practice identified by the Fund.

7. REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN FOR BENEFICIARIES

Summary of the assessment of the administrative burden for beneficiaries and, where necessary, the actions planned accompanied by an indicative timeframe to reduce the administrative burden.

The responses of the 2012 public consultation articulated concerns about the long processing times associated with project assessment and approval. The general consensus was that the level of bureaucracy needed to be reduced.

Sound, effective and efficient management of the EU funds requires effective and transparent systems. The management and control systems must ensure the selection of projects which contribute most to the outcomes sought and the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud, and thus ensure reasonable assurance on the regularity of expenditure. The delivery system should be as streamlined as possible and compliant with EU and national rules.

The Managing Authority (MA) and Member States (MS) have agreed administrative simplifications, incl.:

- 1. Information on calls for grant aid:** The MA will publish a rolling 24 month programme of calls for applications. Calls will have a high degree of focus detailing the results and outputs required and total financial allocation of each call. A calendar of fixed Steering Committee (SC) dates will be published at the time of the call to provide transparency on the targets for processing times. The decision-making procedures and criteria will be very clearly set out in the terms of reference of each call. Except in duly justified cases endorsed by the SC, processing of applications shall be completed in max.36 weeks. Should the max processing time not be met, an update indicating reasons for delay will be published on the programme website to ensure transparency for all applicants. The programme monitoring committee (PMC) will be informed in the framework of its meetings.
- 2. Application process:** Support will be available to potential applicants through information seminars and workshops. A 2 stage application process will be used. In duly justified cases flexibility is provided to evaluate and use alternative approaches if agreed with PMC/SC, provided that provisions for the overall assessment and decision making process are respected. Stage 1 will be a short application form, with applicants receiving a decision within max.12 weeks of applying. Applications emerging from stage 1 of the process will be invited to provide additional detailed information for stage 2 of the application process.
- 3. Assessment:** The primary purpose of the assessment process is to assess the potential of proposed projects to deliver the specified results and outputs of the programme in a cost effective manner. In stage 2 of the process, the JS and all other relevant bodies (e.g. accountable departments) will proceed with the full assessment of the application in accordance with the procedures and criteria described in the terms of reference so as to make recommendations to the SC and to issue letters of offer (LoO). Except in duly justified cases, stage 2 of the process shall not exceed 24 weeks, including the issuing of the LoO to the applicant. The principle of proportionality will be applied in the assessment and decision-making process so as to take adequate account of the different types and scale of projects, project applicants and the levels of financial support sought.
- 4. Allocation of funding:** The regulations require that the final decision on the allocation of grant aid is made by the SC (appointed by the PMC). The SC will include representatives of the MS, accountable departments and social partners. The SC will have access to required technical and financial expertise to make an informed decision. There will be no additional approval processes post-SC.
- 5. Harmonisation of Rules:** There will be common rules applied between the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes. A single set of guidance notes and rules will be applied throughout the programme area. The rules will reflect the minimum required to meet EU regulations and national procedures.

6. **Project duration:** The duration of the project can be up to 7 years depending on the nature of the activities being proposed. Where a project is over 3 years duration, the second phase of the project will be conditional on a rigorous mid-term evaluation.
7. **Letter of Offer Conditions:** Additional conditions in a LoO will be reduced to the minimum required, and will not replicate those contained within programme rules or standard conditions.
8. **Monitoring:** The number of indicators within a LoO will be reduced to not more than 3 project specific indicators in addition to programme indicators. These indicators will reflect the result and output focus of the programme. There will be a renewed focus of programme *indicators and independent* evaluations at the thematic level. Arrangements for monitoring the horizontal principles (Section 8) will be reviewed to ensure effectiveness.
9. **Budget structure:** A simplified budget structure will be used within the LoO, reflecting the limited number of categories of eligible expenditure. This will increase the operational flexibility of Lead Partners in the implementation of operations without the requirement to seek approval for modifications to sub-budget lines.
10. **Simplified costs:** The Programme will pro-actively promote and implement simplified costs as defined in Art. 67 of Reg. (EU) No 1303/2013. All relevant projects will avail of a flat rate for overheads, defined by Art. 68 of Reg. (EU) No 1303/2013. Commission Reg. (EU) 481/2014 defines the specific rules for the eligibility of expenditure. Calls for applications and assessment will identify opportunities for the application of a unit cost methodology. Where there is a suitable basis for unit costs, this methodology will be mandatory. It is also considered that there will be limited scope to apply lump sum payments.
11. **Lead Partners:** Local authority and other lead partners who are engaging with a large number of final beneficiaries will be required to state how they are reducing the administrative burden for final beneficiaries. Local authorities will be required to use unit costs, flat rates, lump sums or resource allocation models to reduce the administrative burden for final beneficiaries. This forms part of the assessment process.
12. **Verification:** Risk based sampling methodology will be used by the first level of control in carrying out its administrative checks. A focus on unit costs and outputs will significantly reduce the level of verification. Increased emphasis is placed during verification on the achievement of outputs and results indicators identified by the call for applications. The verification process will include control checks to ensure the accuracy and reliability of data collection and input into the central database.
13. **E-Cohesion:** PEACE will embrace the principles of e-cohesion. There will be an opportunity for all applicants to apply online. Applicants will be able to review the status of their application on line. Lead partners will have access to up to date monitoring and financial information on-line.

All measures to reduce the administrative burden will be in place at the time of the first call.

8. HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLES

8.1 Sustainable development

Description of specific actions to take into account environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management, in the selection of operations.

This principle seeks to ensure that the Programme supports activity that promotes sustainable development and creates sustainable communities by safeguarding, and requiring the sustainable use of, existing resources to enhance the long-term management of, and investment in, human, social and environmental resources for future generations.

The Programme has been subject to a Strategic Environment Assessment. The report and accompanying documentation is available on the SEUPB website.

The programme development process has included participation of the relevant bodies responsible for sustainable development, and these bodies have contributed to the development of the programme.

All operations in all themes have to align to and comply with the Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted by the European Council in June 2006; as well as the respective national Sustainable Development Strategy within each jurisdiction.

As part of the assessment of applications, consideration will be given to project adherence to the principles and objectives of sustainable development; as well as the associated environmental costs and benefits resulting. Where deemed appropriate, Environmental Impact Assessments will be conducted. To inform this assessment, all project applications will detail how their project complies with Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EEC, which requires a statement of environmental impact i.e. that either the project does not have any significant, negative environmental impact or, where this is not the case, the application should provide a full description (if possible) of the anticipated negative impact as well as of the mitigating measures.

Additional levels of scrutiny will be applied in the following instances:

- Special Protection Areas - Within areas classified as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC (on the conservation of wild birds), aquaculture Structural Fund plans or projects shall only be co-financed following an appropriate written assessment of their effects individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, and following ascertainment that they will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPAs concerned.
- Major Projects - In accordance with Article 40, applications for assistance concerning major projects must include further project detail that allows an evaluation to be conducted on the project's anticipated environmental impact; including information that confirms the application of the principles of precautionary and preventive actions; that confirms the rectification at source of any environmental damage and that the burden of compliance will reside with the polluter.
- Aquaculture Plans or Projects - Pending their full classification, enhanced scrutiny will apply to areas:
 - Proposed or required to be proposed by the Government of the United Kingdom or the Government of Ireland as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC (on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora); and
 - Proposed or required to be proposed by the United Kingdom Authorities or Ireland Authorities as SPAs pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC (on the conservation of wild birds).

Lessons learned from past programmes and the responses to the public consultation have informed the proposed process for incorporating the principle of sustainable development into the programme. The approach taken in the previous programme was considered too heavily weighted towards minimum compliance at the assessment stage which has not particularly added value to the overall design and implementation of operations. Therefore, the intention is that the Joint Secretariat will:

- Incorporate the principle of sustainable development in the design of measures and operations;
- Involve bodies working in the fields of sustainable development at all stages (preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation), including the provision of advice on sustainable

development in fund-related activities. This will involve engagement with applicants at the development stage of their application. Based on feedback and pilot training sessions delivered near to the end of the previous programme, the intention is to provide access to training to raise awareness with applicants in the best practice pertaining to sustainable development to positively influence project design and implementation;

- Ensure that project selection criteria will assess projects on the basis of environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention;
- Monitor and evaluate the application of the principle of sustainable development.

8.2 Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

Description of the specific actions to promote equal opportunities and prevent any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, design and implementation of the cooperation programme and, in particular, in relation to access to funding, taking account of the needs of the various target groups at risk of such discrimination, and in particular, the requirements of ensuring accessibility for persons with disabilities.

In accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Employment Equality Act (1998) and the Equal Status Act (2000), as amended by the Equality Act (2004) in Ireland, operations part-financed by the Programme shall comply with and, where appropriate, contribute to Community policy and legislation on equal opportunities and non discrimination.

Accordingly, the Programme will have due regard for the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- Between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- Between men and women generally;
- Between persons with a disability and persons without;
- Between persons with dependants and persons without; and
- Without prejudice to the above, have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The Programme has been subject to equality screening in accordance with relevant national legislation and the SEUPB's equality policy. All relevant documentation is available on the website of the SEUPB.

This screening concluded that there were major positive impacts across four of the nine Section 75 grounds (religious belief; political opinion; race/ethnic origin; and age); neutral impacts (sexual orientation and marital status); and minor impacts on three grounds (gender, disability and dependency). These were all regarded as impacts that would help to promote equality of opportunity and good relations, hence the programme should not be subject to a further Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA).

The determination of the screening exercise was presented during the Consultation Process for the Programme. A positive response was received from consultees, with most submissions agreeing with the Section 75 screening process and the decision reached by SEUPB for the PEACE programme.

The SEUPB is committed to ensuring that all reasonable steps are taken to facilitate engagement with PEACE, including the application process, and will continue to monitor the programme through to full implementation in order to identify and remedy any emerging adverse impacts.

Project applicants will be required to include a statement of the likely equality impact on their application and identify any differential impacts on the above mentioned categories.

Lessons learned from past programmes and the responses to the public consultation have informed the proposed process for incorporating the principle of equality into the programme. The approach taken in the previous programme was considered too heavily weighted towards compliance at the assessment and monitoring stage which has not particularly added value to the overall design and implementation of operations. Therefore, the intention is that the Joint Secretariat will:

- Provide specialised training to applicants and Lead Partners on issues regarding equality, with a particular emphasis on disability; including the provision of tool kits and advice, drawing upon resources as appropriate that have been funded and developed in previous programme periods;
- Provide equality training to members of the Monitoring Committee and Steering Committees, with a particular emphasis on raising awareness on disability issues;
- Involve bodies working in the area of equality at all stages (preparation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation) of operations, including the provision of advice on equality-related issues;
- Ensure that project selection criteria will assess projects on equality impact;
- Monitor and evaluate the application of the principle of equality.

8.3 Equality between men and women

Description of the contribution of the cooperation programme to the promotion of equality between men and women and, where appropriate, the arrangements to ensure the integration of the gender perspective at cooperation programme and operation level.

The Programme shall pursue the objective of equality between men and women and take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination during the preparation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation stages of the programme.

Gender equality aims to ensure that men and women enjoy the same rights and opportunities; with equal value and weighting attributed to the different behaviour, aspirations and needs of women and men.

The programme development process has included participation of the relevant bodies responsible for promoting gender equality and non-discrimination, and these bodies have contributed to the development of the programme.

The Managing Authority in partnership with the Monitoring Committee will undertake general self-assessment exercises in relation to gender equality, and may commission specific evaluation studies or structured reflection focusing on the application of gender mainstreaming principles.

The Monitoring Committee and Steering Committee(s) for the programme will, as far as possible, be gender balanced and include an equality expertise / responsibility function.

As stated previously lessons learned from past programmes and the responses to the public consultation have informed the proposed process for incorporating the principle of equality into the programme. Therefore, the intention is that the Joint Secretariat will:

- Pursue the objective of equality between men and women and ensure its mainstreaming through the integration of a gender perspective at all stages of the implementation of the funds, including preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- Take account of the potential contribution of the programme to gender equality with reference to the specific challenges in the priority investment areas chosen, where relevant;
- Make arrangements for training of relevant staff in the fields of gender equality law and policy as well as on gender mainstreaming related to the implementation of the funds;
- Monitor and evaluate the application of the principle and have regard to the results of such monitoring and evaluation actions.

These commitments are additional to legal obligations applying under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Employment Equality Act (1998) and the Equal Status Act (2000), as amended by the Equality Act (2004), in Ireland.

The Programme notes the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted in October 2000 that recognises the distinct and diverse issues concerning women affected by conflict. The resolution focuses on the different effects that war has on men and women; it also recognises that women can and should be active participants in rebuilding their communities and countries following conflict. The central demands of UNSCR 1325 are for the full and equal participation of women in decision-making processes relating to peace and security; the inclusion of gender perspectives in all peacemaking and peace-building strategies and initiatives that are undertaken by the UN and by Member States; and for the protection of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings.

The National Action Plan for Ireland, references the importance of supporting cross-border, and cross-community initiatives to strengthen women’s political participation in Ireland and Northern Ireland, and in particular the exchange of best practice and cross-learning in relation to participation and decision making. Ireland also commits itself to engaging with relevant authorities in Northern Ireland to encourage development of policies and measures in relation to UN SCR 1325.

The UK Government has not included Northern Ireland in its National Action Plan on UN SCR 1325.

9. SEPERATE ELEMENTS

9.1 Major projects to be implemented during the programming period

Table 23: List of major projects

Project	Planned notification / submission date (year, quarter)	Planned start of implementation (year, quarter)	Planned completion date (year, quarter)	Priority axes / Investment priorities
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9.2 Performance framework of the cooperation programme

Table 24: Performance framework (summary table)

Priority axis	ID	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit, where appropriate	Milestone for 2018	Final target (2023)
P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation	1.3	The number of participants in shared education classrooms.	Pupil per school year	19,200	144,000.00
P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation	2.1	Phase 1. The number of participants aged 0 -24 completing approved programmes that develop their soft skills and a respect for diversity	Persons	5,000	21,000.00
P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation	3.1	Capital developments to create new shared spaces.	Number	0	8.00
P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation	4.1	Local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities	Number	0	17.00
P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation	F11	The total amount of eligible expenditure entered into the accounting system of the certifying authority and certified by the authority	Euro	23,322,193 (ERDF + match)	253,434,310.00
P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation	IS3.1	Value of letters of offer issued concerning projects intending to create new shared spaces	Euro	Letters of Offer issued to the value of €52,941,176	
P1 - Promoting Peace and Reconciliation	IS4.1	Local action plans that result in meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between persons from different communities	Number of Letters of Offer issued	17	0.00

9.3 Relevant partners involved in the preparation of the cooperation programme Programme Development Steering Group

1. Border Regional Authority (BRA)
2. Border, Midland & Western Regional Assembly (BMW)
3. Community Workers' Co-operative (CWC)
4. Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
5. Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP)
6. Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, Ireland (DJEI)
7. Department of Public Expenditure & Reform, Ireland (DPER)
8. Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
9. Irish Rural Link
10. Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)
11. Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM)
12. Rural Community Network
13. Scottish Enterprise
14. Scottish Government
15. Scottish Social partner
16. Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE)
17. The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)
18. The Irish Business & Employers Confederation (IBEC)
19. The Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA)

Equality Sub Group

1. Community Workers' Co-operative (CWC)
2. Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP)
3. Equality Authority
4. Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA)
5. Women & Peace building – Developing Shared Learning
6. Women into Public Life

Environment Sub Group

1. ADAS
2. Council for Nature Conservation & Countryside (CNCC)
3. Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG)
4. Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP)
5. Scottish Government

Environment Statutory Bodies

1. Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Ireland
2. Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG), Ireland
3. Directorate for Local Government and Communities, The Scottish Government, Scotland (INTERREG only)
4. Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Northern Ireland
5. Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Protection Agency, Ireland

Respondents to Consultation 2012

1. Agricultural & Environmental Consultancy (ADAS)
2. Aisling Ghear Theatre Co
3. Alliance Party
4. Amharclann Ghaoth Dobhair – Theatre
5. An Gaelaras
6. Ards Borough Council
7. Armagh City & District Council
8. Ballymena Borough Council
9. Banbridge District Council
10. Belfast City Council
11. Cairde Teo
12. Carlingford Marine Enterprises LTD.
13. Carnogher Community Association
14. Carrickfergus Borough Council
15. Cavan Community Forum
16. Cavan County Council
17. Cavan PEACE III Partnership
18. CBG Officers
19. Central Procurement Directorate (CPD)
20. Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy QUB
21. Ceolteoir Luraigh
22. Ciste Infheistiochta Gaeilge
23. Clann Credo
24. Clinton Centre
25. Club Oige Luraigh
26. Co. Monaghan Community Network
27. COMET
28. Coiste na nIarchimi
29. Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta
30. Comhaltas Uladh
31. Community Relations Council (CRC)

32. Cooperation Ireland
33. Council Conradh na Gaeilge
34. Councils of the metropolitan Area (COMET)
35. County Leitrim PEACE Partnership
36. Craigavon Borough Council
37. Cross-border Groups
38. Culturlann McAdam O Fiaich
39. Democratic Unionist Party
40. Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
41. Department of Children and Youth Affairs
42. Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DECAL)
43. Department of Education
44. Department of Employment and Learning (DEL)
45. Department of Enterprise, Trade & Innovation (DETI)
46. Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG)
47. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFA)
48. Department of Health
49. Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)
50. Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, Ireland (DJEI)
51. Department of Justice
52. Department of Social Department (DSD)
53. Department of the Environment (DOE)
54. Department of the Taoiseach
55. Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
56. Derry City Council & Derry-Londonderry Strategy Board
57. Derry City Council Sports Development
58. Development Consultant
59. Diversity Challenges, AFTERMATH project
60. Donegal Community Workers Cooperative
61. Donegal County Council
62. Down District Council
63. DULRA - environmental consultancy
64. Duncairn Community Partnership
65. Dundalk Institute of Technology
66. Dundalk Town Council
67. Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council
68. Early Years
69. East Belfast Mission
70. East Border Region
71. Equality Authority
72. Equality Commission
73. FASA
74. Fermanagh District Council
75. Foras na Gaeilge
76. Gael Linn
77. Gaelscoil na gCeithre Maistri
78. Gaelscoil Neachtain Dun Geimhin
79. Glen Dimplex
80. Glor Dhun Geimhin
81. Glor Leim an mhadiadh
82. Glor na Mona
83. Glor na n Gael
84. GRADAM an luir
85. Groundwork Northern Ireland

86. Health and Social Care
87. Health Research Board
88. Integrated Education Fund
89. Integration Centre Ireland
90. International School for Peace Studies
91. Intertrade Ireland
92. Invest NI
93. Iontaobhas na Gaeilge
94. La Nua
95. Letterkenny Hospital
96. Lifelong Learning/Widening Access
97. Lisburn-Castlereagh PEACE III Partnership
98. Louth County Council
99. Monaghan County Council
100. Naiscoil an Chaistil
101. Naiscoil Charn Tochair
102. Naiscoil Dhun Padraig
103. Naiscoil Mhachaire Ratha
104. Netwell Centre
105. Newry & Mourne District Council
106. Newtownabbey Borough Council and CAN PEACE III Partnership
107. NI Water
108. North Down, Ards & Down PEACE III Partnership
109. North West PEACE III Partnership
110. North-East PEACE III Partnership
111. Northern Ireland Biodiversity Group
112. Northern Ireland Environment Link
113. Northern Ireland Phoenix Organisation
114. Northern Ireland Rural Development Council
115. Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA)
116. Northern Irish Environmental Link
117. Ogras
118. Ogras Oirialla
119. Omagh District Council
120. Opportunity Youth
121. Pobal
122. Pobal an Chaistil
123. Queens University Belfast
124. Raidio Failte/Lionra Uladh
125. Sinn Fein
126. Sligo Peace and Reconciliation Partnership Committee
127. South West PEACE III Partnership
128. Springboard Opportunities Ltd
129. Strabane District Council
130. Stranmillis College Belfast
131. Tar Abhaile
132. The Atlantic Philanthropies
133. The Centre for Cross-border Studies
134. The Commission for Victims and Survivors for Northern Ireland
135. The Council for Nature Conservation & the Countryside (CNCC)
136. The Fermanagh Trust
137. The International Fund for Ireland
138. The Northern Ireland Centre for Trauma and Transformation (NICTT)
139. The Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI)

140. The Royal Ulster Agricultural Society (RUAS)
141. The Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)
142. The Training for Women Network (TWN)
143. The Youth Education Social Inclusion Partnership (YESIP)
144. Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)
145. Ulster Unionist Party and Jim Nicholson MEP
146. ULTACH Trust
147. University of Strathclyde Glasgow
148. University of Ulster
149. WAVE Trauma Centre
150. Women & Peace building – Developing Shared Learning
151. Women into Politics
152. Women into Public Life
153. Women Leading the Way
154. Young Enterprise Northern Ireland (YENI)
155. Youth Initiatives
156. Youth Work Ireland-Monaghan
157. YouthLink NI
158. Youthnet

Respondents to Consultation 2014

1. Active Communities Network
2. Agroteritori Fundació Privada
3. An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge
4. An Eochair Ex Prisoners Group
5. An Gaeláras
6. Antrim and Newtownabbey District Council
7. Ardoyne Youth Club
8. Argyll and Bute Council
9. Armagh City and District Council, Banbridge District Council & Craigavon Borough Council
10. Arts Council Northern Ireland
11. Arts Ekta
12. Ballinamore Drama Festival
13. Ballymena Borough Council
14. BMW Regional Assembly
15. Bogside and Brandywell Initiative
16. Bord Gáis Networks
17. Border Office
18. Building Relationships in Communities (BRIC)
19. C/O DRS, Glasgow City Council
20. Cairde Strabane Republican Ex-prisoners Group
21. Camlough Community Association
22. Carrickfergus Borough Council
23. Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust
24. Cavan Community Forum Public Participation Network – CPPN
25. Cavan County Council and Cavan Local Enterprise Office
26. Cavan Peace Partnership
27. CAWT
28. Centre for Connected Health & Social Care

29. Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS)
30. Charter for NI
31. Child and Family Agency
32. Children in Northern Ireland
33. Clann Naofa Boxing Academy
34. Clinton International Summer School Queen's University Belfast Northern Ireland
35. Clones Failte
36. Coillte Forest
37. Coimhearsnachd Bharraidh agus Bhatarsaidh(Barra & Vatersay Community) Ltd
38. Coiste Forbartha Charn Tóchair
39. Coiste na nIarchimí
40. Coleraine Borough Council
41. Colleges Northern Ireland
42. COMET Interreg Partnership
43. Commission for Victims and Survivors
44. Community Change
45. Community Restorative Justice Newry/Armagh
46. Conradh na Gaeilge
47. Cooley Environmental and Health Group
48. Co-operation Ireland
49. Creggan Neighbourhood Partnership
50. Cross Border Emergency Management Working Group
51. Cunamh
52. DARD
53. DBE – DEME Blue Energy NV
54. Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)
55. Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources
56. Department of Education NI
57. Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment
58. Department of Rural Development
59. Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government
60. Department of Transport Tourism and Sport
61. Derry CC PEACE III Partnership
62. Derry City and Strabane Council
63. Derry Health Cities
64. Destined Ltd
65. Disability Federation of Ireland
66. Diverse City Community Partnership
67. Donegal Community Workers Cooperative
68. Donegal County Council
69. Donegal ETB
70. Donegal PEACE III Partnership
71. Donegal Youth Service
72. Dosage Adjustment for Normal Eating (DAFNE)
73. Dove House Community Trust/Dove House Advice Services
74. Down District Council
75. DP Energy
76. Drumshanbo Skate Park Committee
77. Dundalk Institute of Technology
78. E and I Engineering Ltd
79. Early Years
80. East Border Region Biodiversity Working Group
81. East Border Region Ltd
82. Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation

83. Éirí na Gréine
84. Employers for Childcare
85. Energy & Climate Change Directorate, Scottish Government
86. Enterprise Northern Ireland
87. Environment and Marine Group (DOE)
88. ERNACT EEIG
89. Ex-Prisoners Interpretive Centre (EPIC)
90. Failte Abhaile
91. Fair Head Tidal Energy Park Ltd
92. Farney Community Development Group Ltd
93. Fermanagh District Council
94. Fermanagh Trust
95. Foras na Gaeilge
96. Forestry Commission Scotland
97. Forthspring InterCommunity Group
98. Geographical Survey Northern Ireland
99. Glen Dimplex
100. Grow It Yourself
101. Habitat for Humanity NI
102. Hands of History Program
103. Healthy Living Services Alliance
104. HSE Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan Primary, Community and Continuing Care
105. Iarchimí Ard Mhacha Theas Iarchimí Ard Mhacha Theas
106. IBIS, c/o Loughs Agency
107. ICBAN
108. Ilex
109. Include Youth
110. Inishowen Basking Shark Study Group
111. Inishowen Development Partnership
112. Integrated Education Fund
113. International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD)
114. International School for Peace Studies Ltd
115. Into the West
116. Ionad Uíbh Eachach (Iveagh Centre)
117. Irish Football Association
118. Irish Rugby Football Union, Ulster Branch
119. Irish Water
120. Junior Achievement Ireland
121. La Nua
122. Leafair Community Association Derry
123. Leitrim County Council
124. Leitrim Integrated Development Company
125. Lifestart Foundation
126. Lisburn Peoples Support Project
127. Lisburn PSP
128. Lisburn-Castlereagh PEACE III Partnership
129. Lisnafin/Ardnalee/Trust Cross-Community Development Association
130. Loughs Agency of the Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission
131. Louth County Council
132. Maiden of the Mourne Festival
133. Marble Arch Caves Geopark
134. Marine Tourism and Angling Development Partnership
135. Meath County Council
136. Melmount East Bank Estates Community Associations Forum

137. Mid and East Antrim District Council
138. Mid Ulster District Council
139. Monaghan County Council
140. Monaghan PEACE III Partnership
141. Moyle District Council
142. Muirhevnamor Community Council
143. Narrow Water Bridge Action Group
144. National Parks and Wildlife Service (DAHG)
145. National Trails Office
146. National Trust
147. Network Ireland
148. Newry & Mourne and Down District Councils
149. Newry Rainbow Community
150. NI Rural Development Council
151. NIACRO
152. NIAMH
153. NICRC
154. NICVA
155. NILGA
156. North Ayrshire Council
157. North Belfast Interface Network
158. North Down and Ards District Council
159. North Down Borough Council
160. North Down PEACE III Partnership
161. North Point Aviation Services
162. North West Community Network
163. North West Partnership
164. North West Simon Community & Donegal Homeless Action Team
165. Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Education
166. Northern Ireland Childrens Enterprise
167. Northern Ireland Environment Link
168. Northern Ireland Science Park
169. Northern Ireland Youth Forum
170. NWRCBG
171. Oaklee Trinity Ltd
172. Omagh District Council
173. Omagh Forum for Rural Associations
174. Omeath District Development Company LTD and Cooley Peninsula Tourist Office
175. Pat Finucane Centre
176. Play Board
177. POBAL
178. Regional Public Health Agency for Northern Ireland
179. Relatives for Justice
180. River and Fisheries Trust of Scotland (RAFTS)
181. RNIB
182. Rural Community Network
183. School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD
184. School of Biological Sciences, Queens University
185. School of Biological Sciences, Queens University
186. School Of Education, University of Ulster
187. Scottish Agricultural College
188. Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment
189. Scottish Environment Protection Agency
190. SDLP

191. SERC
192. Silverbridge Boxing Club
193. Sinn Fein
194. Sligo Family Resource Centre
195. Sligo Peace and Reconciliation Partnership Committee
196. Smart ECO Hub Louth
197. Smart Grid Ireland
198. Smart Region
199. South Antrim Community Network
200. South Ayrshire Council
201. South East Fermanagh Foundation (SEFF)
202. South West College
203. Southern Education and Library Board
204. Sport Changes Life
205. SSE plc
206. Start 360
207. Strabane District Council
208. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport
209. SW Cluster PEACE III Partnership
210. Tar Abhaile
211. Tar Anall
212. Tar Isteach
213. The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
214. The CAN PEACE III Partnership
215. The Carers Association Sligo
216. The Carers Trust
217. The Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE) and the QUESTOR Centre
218. The Committee for Regional Development NI Assembly
219. The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
220. The Geological Society, Northern Ireland Regional Group
221. The Highland Council
222. The Mummings Foundation
223. The Neighbourhood Renewal Area Partnerships
224. The Nerve Centre
225. The Queen's University Belfast & The University of Ulster
226. The Resurgam Community Development Trust
227. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
228. The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
229. The Sligo, Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway
230. Tides Training
231. Triax Neighbourhood Partnership Board
232. Tus Nua
233. TWN
234. Ulster Farmers Union
235. Ulster GAA
236. Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)
237. Ulster Wildlife
238. University of the Highlands and Lowlands
239. University of Ulster
240. Verbal Arts Centre Derry
241. Voluntary Action Lochaber
242. Warrenpoint Burren Rostrevor Chamber of Commerce
243. Warrenpoint Heritage Development Committee
244. Waterways Ireland

245. Wave Trauma Centre
246. West of Scotland Colleges' Partnership
247. WorkForUPlus
248. Youth Council for Northern Ireland
249. Youth Initiatives
250. Youthlink NI
251. Youthnet

9.4 Applicable programme implementation conditions governing the financial management, programming, monitoring, evaluation and control of the participation of third countries in transnational and interregional programmes through a contribution of ENI and IPA resources

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Cover Letter MA	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	23-May-2018		Ares(2018)2660887	Cover Letter MA	23-May-2018	nrsellja

Submitted annexes by the Commission implementing regulation laying down the model of the programme

Document title	Document type	Programme version	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
Annex 2 - Final Ex-Ante Evaluation Report	Report of the ex-ante evaluation	1.2	13-Nov-2015		Ares(2015)5059969	Annex 2 - Final Ex-Ante Report	13-Nov-2015	nbodenia
Annex 6 - Map indicating eligible areas for PEACE Programme	A map of the area covered by the cooperation programme	1.2	13-Nov-2015		Ares(2015)5059969	Annex 6 - Map indicating eligible areas for PEACE Programme	13-Nov-2015	nbodenia
Cover Letter MA	Confirmation of agreement in writing to the contents of the cooperation programme	3.0	23-May-2018		Ares(2018)2660887	Cover Letter MA	23-May-2018	nrsellja
Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014TC16RFPC001 3.0	Snapshot of data before send	3.0	23-May-2018		Ares(2018)2660887	Programme Snapshot of data before send 2014TC16RFPC001 3.0 en	23-May-2018	nrsellja

Latest validation results

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