



# PEACE PLUS



# PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE – PEACE BUILDING



The PEACE PLUS programme will contribute to a more **prosperous and stable society** in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland and will leave a lasting legacy. The programme will achieve this by funding activities that **promote peace and reconciliation** and contribute to the cross-border economic and territorial development of the programme area. It will build upon previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.

**Activities that support Peace and reconciliation will be at the core of Programme and all assessments**

# Context: Programme Development



- Detailed drafting of the Programme Themes and Investment Areas well progressed
- A **summary document** of the views expressed and surveys submitted during the **Stakeholder Engagement process** was published on SEUPBs Website.
- **Bi-lateral engagement** with Government Departments in Northern Ireland and Ireland based on their **Joint North South Position Papers** as work continued in designing the themes.
- **Engagement with European Commission** re progress and technical areas in the Programme – Programme used as best practice example in terms of development (particularly on stakeholder engagement)

# Context: Programme Development



# Thematic Areas

Theme 1

**Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities**

Theme 2

**Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation**

Theme 3

**Empowering and Investing in Our Young People**

Theme 4

**Healthy and Inclusive Communities**

Theme 5

**Supporting a Sustainable Future**

Theme 6:

**Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration**

# Investment Areas

1.1 Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans

1.2 Empowering Communities

1.3 Building Positive Relations

1.4 Reimagining Communities

2.1 SME Development and Transition

2.2 Innovation Challenge Fund

2.3 Programme Area Skills Development Programme

2.4 Smart Towns and Villages

3.1 Learning Together Programme

3.2 PEACE PLUS Youth Programme

3.3 Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing

4.1 Collaborative Health and Social Care

4.2 Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion

4.3 Victims and Survivors

5.1 Biodiversity, Nature Recovery and Resilience

5.2 Marine and Coastal Management

5.3 Water Quality and Catchment Management

5.4 Water Quality Improvement Programme

5.5 Geothermal Demonstration Programme

5.6 Sustainable Travel Connections

6.1 Strategic Planning and Engagement

6.2 Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens

# Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities



- **Investment Area 1: Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans**

To enable and empower local community partnerships, led by the Council, to select and deliver priority projects on a cross community basis, which will result in improved local services and facilities, and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation.

PEACE PLUS Action Plans will be produced for each of the 17 local authority areas. These will be designed to complement the community planning approach adopted across the Programme area.

- **Investment Area 2: Empowering Communities**

To empower community, voluntary and statutory organisations at all levels across the Programme area to contribute to the creation of a more peaceful and prosperous society.

3 Strands: (1) The Empowering Communities to Embed Peace Small Grants Programme; (2) The Institutional Capacity Development Programme; (3) The Community-Based Interventions Programme

- **Investment Area 3: Building Positive Relations**

To promote positive relations characterised by respect, where cultural diversity is celebrated and people can live, learn and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance.

It will provide support for projects which transcend local boundaries and have the potential to achieve significant peace and reconciliation across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

- **Investment Area 4: Re-Imaging Communities**

To create a more cohesive society through an increased provision of transformative shared space and services, which will support and embed peace and reconciliation.

This Programme is a transformative re-imaging programme, which will create new significant shared spaces for use by all communities; or increase the shared usage of existing facilities. It will result in an increased number of individuals and groups utilising shared spaces and accessing shared services.

# Theme 2: Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation



- **Investment Area 1: SME Development and Transition**

To enhance sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs, including by productive investments.

The Programme will build upon existing investment to support SMEs to operate at scale through cross border collaboration; engage in commercially led innovation; effectively transition to engage in the low carbon, circular economy; and strengthen capacity for maximum engagement in a post Brexit, post COVID-19 economic landscape.

- **Investment Area 2: Innovation Challenge Fund**

To develop and enhance research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies.

This will support high level, commercially focused research, development and innovation within key Programme area growth sectors, resulting in increased productivity, higher export levels and sustainable employment. It will deliver major change innovation projects, which result in lasting local and national economic and social benefit.

- **Investment Area 3: Programme Area Skills Development Programme**

To develop skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship.

This will support area-based approaches, designed to address key skills gaps, which will result in increased productivity and employment and higher levels of cross border labour mobility. It will enable cross community and cross border collaboration between education and training-based collaborations which will reduce duplication and maximise the capacity to address existing and emerging skills gaps. It will encompass the opportunity for up skilling, reskilling, training and job placement opportunities.

- **Investment Area 4: Smart Cities Towns and Villages**

To reap the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisation and public authorities.

It will provide greater access to and awareness of telecommunications. An area-based approach will be adopted to the creation of Smart Towns and Villages. This proven model utilises a social innovation led approach to maximise the potential of ICT to deliver improved social and economic outcomes in target areas; particularly those of a rural nature. The Programme will also incorporate measures for the transformation of vacant spaces and facilities within town and village centres for communal recreational and social usage.

# Theme 3: Empowering and Investing in Our Young People



- **Investment Area 1: Learning Together Programme**

To provide direct, sustained contact between children from all backgrounds through collaboration between early childhood settings, schools and youth organisations, to promote good relations and enhance children's skills to contribute to a cohesive society.

It will facilitate the education together of those of different religious beliefs, including reasonable numbers of both Protestant and Catholic children and young persons; including those who are experiencing socio-economic deprivation and those who are not; which is secured by the working together and co-operation of two or more relevant education providers.

- **Investment Area 2: PEACE Plus Youth Programme**

To enhance 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.

It is a targeted capacity building Programme for young people aged 14-24 years, who are disadvantaged, excluded or marginalised, have deep social and emotional needs and are at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, violence or dissident activity. The Programme is outcomes focused across a number of key areas including good relations, personal development and citizenship.

- **Investment Area 3: Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing**

To enhance 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.

It will support non statutory provision activity involving cross community and cross border multi-agency collaborative approaches, which will lead to improved understanding of youth mental health issues and the sharing of best practice to improve related interventions. In addition to mental health, supported projects will also focus on the social, emotional and environmental wellbeing of young people and building their capacity. The Programme will make a considerable contribution to peace and reconciliation through the development of enhanced emotional resilience in our young people.

# Theme 4: Healthy and Inclusive Communities



- **Investment Area 1: Collaborative Health and Social Care**

To ensure equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care.

It will build upon existing and new cross community and cross border collaborative approaches to health and social care delivery models, to deliver an increased number of episodes of care. It will support the development of innovative community based health care interventions, which complement statutory provision. It will support information communications technology to transform healthcare services and reduce inequalities as a potential highlighted by COVID-19.

- **Investment Area 2: Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion**

To create a more cohesive society through an increased provision of key services and supports in rural areas.

The Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion Programme will support social, economic and environmental projects which contribute to the creation of healthy and thriving communities in rural areas. By adopting a strengths-based approach, the programme will contribute to the creation of a more balanced society, in which our rural communities thrive.

- **Investment Area 3: Victim & Survivors**

To create a more cohesive society through an increased provision of services.

To enable post traumatic growth, a structured and consistent approach to enable those wishing to engage with the legacy of the past should be sustained. The proposed areas are as follows:

- Further development of the health and wellbeing case worker network model; and
- Advocacy support programmes (Truth, Justice and Acknowledgement) sector training and development.

# Theme 5: Supporting a Sustainable Future



- **Investment Area 1: Biodiversity, Nature Recovery & Resilience**

To enhance protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in the urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution. It will facilitate the recovery of additional protected habitats and priority species.

- **Investment Area 2: Marine and Coastal Management**

To promote climate change adaptation, disaster risk prevention and disaster resilience, taking into account ecosystem based approaches. It will enable a cross border approach to the protection of the marine and coastal environment from natural and anthropological threats; safeguarding this irreplaceable natural asset and resulting in economic, social and cultural benefits.

- **Investment Area 3: Water Quality and Catchment Management**

It will enable a cross border collaborative approach to the management and improvement of water quality in selected transition water bodies. It will improve freshwater quality in cross border river basins and result in an increased percentage of cross border freshwater bodies in cross border river basins with good or high quality.

- **Investment Area 4: Water Quality Improvement Programme**

It will result in an improvement in the water quality of three specific transitional water bodies: Lough Erne, Lough Melvin and Donegal Bay through cross border collaboration.

- **Investment Area 5: Geothermal Demonstration Programme**

It will build the knowledge, skills and capacity required to develop a policy framework and encourage investment in the geothermal technology sector. To achieve the replacement of fossil fuels by indigenous renewable energy in the heat sector, will result in a reduced reliance on fossil fuels and enhanced energy security.

- **Investment Area 6: Sustainable Travel Connections**

The Sustainable Travel Connections Programme will increase connectivity in the form of sustainable public transport. It will involve significant investment in sustainable rail stock. The improvement of the rail service linking the two capital cities and the smaller adjacent urban centres can exploit this dynamic to its full potential, providing spin-off agglomeration and wider economic and environmental benefits.

# Theme 6: Building and Embedding Partnership and Collaboration



- **Investment Area 1: Strategic Planning and Engagement**

It will support, the engagement of strategic stakeholders, targeting legal and administrative obstacles to cooperation in relevant sectors. The funding will focus on enabling joint development and management of strategies; cooperation capacity building; and identification of solutions to reduce obstacles to cross-border cooperation.

**Cross Border Council Cluster strategies**

- **Investment Area 2: Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens**

Building up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people to people actions.

This Programme will put in place mechanisms to finance smaller projects that make a strong contribution to the social and civic cohesion on a cross border basis.

# Local Authority Co-Designed Community Plans



- PEACE PLUS Action Plans will be produced for each of the **17 local authority areas**
- The **Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans** will enable diverse partnerships to establish priority actions for their local areas and collectively address these in a manner which will make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation.
- Actions within the localised plans will span the range of social, environmental and economic interventions included within the PEACE PLUS Programme. However, principally, the plans will be centred around three core themes:
  - **Community regeneration and transformation;**
  - **Thriving and peaceful communities;** and
  - **Celebrating culture, diversity and inclusion.**
- This approach will enable and empower local community partnerships to self-determine and deliver priority projects on a cross community basis; which will result in improved local services and facilities; and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation across the region.

# Consultation Process and Next Steps

