



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

Your EU! Ezine

Summer 2009



FOREWORD



This shortened edition of Your EU! has been designed to give you a brief overview of the various projects benefiting from the European Union's PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes.

Supplied to you in an electronic format it also provides an update of some of the projects highlighted in our last edition. These include INTERREG IVA funded Project Kelvin, which has completed the all important first phase of its development and is on track for completion in autumn.

The £5 million INTERREG IVA funded BioMara bio-marine energy research project is also well underway. Representing a tripartite effort between Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland, the project is set to make a significant impact on the development of new biofuels that will help meet the growing demand for sustainable energy.

The recent eighth North South Ministerial Council Health Sectoral meeting created the perfect backdrop to formally launch the £24 million funding package for Health and Social Care Services under the INTERREG IVA Programme. A number of key Ministers North and South of the border were on hand to welcome the funding announcement which will be managed by both health departments and delivered by Co-Operation and Working Together (CAWT).

As we move through the summer months the SEUPB has a lot to report on from our presence at the Balmoral Show; to the co-ordination of an important seminar on the Transnational and Inter-regional Programmes (INTERREG IVB AND IVC); as well as the completion of our newly enhanced website. Designed to ensure that www.seupb.eu is more interactive and possesses increased access to Programme information the new site will go live over the summer. I would invite you all to log on and e-mail us any feedback that you may have.

2009 will also see the development and support of even more exciting projects

under the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes. Some of these are still in the early stages of development but many are already up and running and are delivering upon their key objectives. Both the Steering and Monitoring Committees are continuing to safeguard the openness and transparency of the Programmes and their dedication will ensure that the best interests of the eligible area are being met.

I hope that you find this publication of interest as we look to the future of the Programmes and the tangible cross-border benefits that they will deliver in promoting reconciliation and creating a more peaceful and stable society.

Pat Colgan
Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body



Ireland's EU Structural Funds
Programmes 2007 - 2013

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



Phase One of Project Kelvin completed

Project Kelvin took an important step on 22 June when the fibre optic submarine cable came ashore at Portrush, County Antrim. The INTERREG IVA funded project will connect 13 towns and cities - Armagh, Ballymena, Belfast, Coleraine, Londonderry, Omagh, Portadown, Strabane, Letterkenny, Castleblayney, Dundalk, Drogheda and Monaghan - to Hibernia Atlantic's terrestrial fibre optic ring.

By autumn the cable system will connect to Hibernia Atlantic's existing secure and diverse trans-Atlantic cable, thereby directly connecting Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland to North America and Europe.

Welcoming the operation to bring the new trans-Atlantic submarine telecommunications cable ashore, Northern Ireland Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster said: "This is a historic milestone for both Northern Ireland and for Project Kelvin. The new cable will connect Northern Ireland, for the first time, directly

Image: From left to right: Bjarni Thorvardarson, CEO of Hibernia Atlantic, Eimear Murphy Programme Manager with SEUPB, Howard Keery, JTS director with SEUPB, Derek Bullock, Vice President of Network Operations and Ken Peterson, CEO of Columbia Ventures Corporation on the beach at Portrush to oversee the submarine cable come ashore.



to North America and greatly improve connectivity with Europe. When combined with the new terrestrial telecommunications infrastructure, currently under construction across Northern Ireland, it will put us at the heart of the global economy."

Eamon Ryan, Ireland's Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources also welcomed the arrival of the cable: "The nature of communications is developing at apace and we must be part of this. Today Ireland links international communications networks. This will facilitate fast, low-cost and state-of-the-art communications which will allow us to connect and compete internationally. It will help to secure our future economic successes, attract inward investment and create new jobs."

For a map of the Project Kelvin cable build, please visit www.hiberniaatlantic.com/images/NIrelandMaps5-09_000.jpg.

Seminar on the Transnational and Inter-regional Programmes (INTERREG IVB and IVC)

The SEUPB held a seminar in Antrim's Dunadry Hotel on 12 May to allow all Northern Ireland partners in the European Union's INTERREG IVB and INTERREG IVC Programmes to learn more about the reporting and control requirements from the programmes. Partners also learnt about the role of the Northern Ireland control authorities.

The SEUPB acts as First Level Control for all Northern Ireland partners in the transnational and inter-regional programmes and this event, which was supported by the INTERACT programme (a European funded training initiative for co-operation projects and programmes) provided the opportunity to introduce the main requirements at European and national levels. The seminar also included a workshop which guided project partners through the process of managing the financial side of their project and how to claim funds.

The seminar was attended by almost 60 people from the 19 approved projects that are currently operating under the INTERREG IVB and IVC Programmes in Northern Ireland.

Image: Back row left to right: Niall Smyth – National Controller SEUPB, Adrian McNamee – Managing Authority Director SEUPB, Ian Hill - NWE UK Contact Point, Robin Ramsey – European Division DFP. Front row left to right: Teresa Lennon – Programme Manager SEUPB, Kirsti Mijnhijmer – Secretariat Northern Periphery, Katarzyna Pelc – INTERACT, Heather Silcox – UK Contact Point Atlantic Area.





PEACE III and INTERREG IVA at the Balmoral Show

From 13 to 15 May, PEACE III and INTERREG IVA were once again featured at the European Union Funding stand at the Balmoral Show in Belfast. SEUPB staff were on hand to explain how the cross-border programmes fit with other EU funding available in Northern Ireland.

Pat Colgan, chief executive of the SEUPB welcomed both the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Mariann Fischer Boel and the Northern Ireland Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle Gildernew to the stand. SEUPB used the event as an opportunity to highlight that the rural development call in the INTERREG IVA Programme would be open by 26 June.

Image: Pat Colgan, centre, is joined by the Northern Ireland Minister for Agricultural and Rural Development Michelle Gildernew and the European Commissioner for Agricultural and Rural Development Mariann Fischer Boel at the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA stand at the Balmoral Show.



SEUPB goes the extra mile to mark Europe Day!



Image: The SEUPB's marathon team prepare for the big race.

As part of its celebration of Europe Day on 9 May, the SEUPB used the opportunity of the Belfast Marathon (4 May) to mark the 59th anniversary of the Schumann Declaration which is regarded as the origin of the European Union.

The SEUPB relay team raised almost £1000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, the marathon's nominated charity. The team completed the course in four hours and eight minutes, dressed in the colours of the European Union, with the European Regional Development Fund's logo displayed on t-shirts.

Team captain, Rae Browne, Information and Research Officer at the SEUPB said:

"It has been a great team effort and we were delighted that we could combine marking Europe Day with raising money for a worthwhile charity."

Peace Network

The European Peace Network, held in conjunction with the University of Ulster INCORE International Summer School, hosted a seminar on 18 June to discuss the impact of the EU PEACE Programmes in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland as well as how regions throughout Europe can share in the lessons learnt from different conflict experiences. Contributors to the one day workshop outlined the challenges faced and the opportunities EU funding presents for local communities.

Speakers at the event included Tomas Baum, Flemish Peace Institute, Gorka Espiau Idoaga, Basque Centre of Social Innovation, Kyriacos Charalambous, DG Regional Policy, and European Commission Kristin van der Leest, from Partners for Democratic Change (European Peace building Liaison Office) and Brandon Hamber, INCORE, (the international conflict research institute).

Image: Adrian McNamee, centre, Managing Authority Director at the SEUPB is joined by Brandon Hamber and Gráinne Kelly from INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute).





Image: Announcing the European Union INTERREG IVA funding for cross-border health are left-right Michael McGimpsey MLA, Minister for Health, Social Services & Public Safety in Northern Ireland, Mary Harney TD, Minister for Health & Children in Ireland and Adrian McNamee, Managing Authority Director, SEUPB.

£24 million of funding welcomed by Health Ministers

The eighth North South Ministerial Council meeting in the Health and Food Safety sectoral formats was held in Dublin on 10 June 2009. The event was used as an opportunity to formally launch the £24 million for Health and Social Care Services under the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme. The launch was held at Farmleigh House, Phoenix Park, Dublin.

Ministers, Mary Harney, TD, Minister for Health and Children; Barry Andrews TD Minister for Children and Youth Affairs; Michael McGimpsey MLA, Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and Michelle Gildernew MP, MLA, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development welcomed the announcement of the funding which will be managed jointly by both health Departments, and delivered on their behalf by Co-Operation and Working Together (CAWT).

Representing the SEUPB and the INTERREG IVA Programme at the event, Adrian McNamee, Director of the Managing Authority said:

“The INTERREG IVA Programme has an overall aim of supporting strategic cross-border co-operation and improving the quality of life for individuals living in the eligible region. This investment builds on the success of other cross-border health projects, such as GP out-of-hours provision and I believe this announcement will continue this strong legacy.”

The Ministers noted that they looked forward to receiving a progress report on the implementation of the project at a future sectoral meeting.

SEUPB highlights opportunities for partners in Western Scotland

On 1 June the SEUPB travelled to picturesque Loch Lomond to highlight the opportunities for projects in the islands and west of Scotland to access funding through the European Union's INTERREG IVA programme. Projects in Western Scotland can avail of INTERREG IVA funding by partnering with organisations in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

Delegates to the one day conference in Scotland were given details of the €30 million funding available which aims to develop cross-border environment projects dealing with Resource Management: Water; Biodiversity and Marine as well as rural projects for the socio-economic development of disadvantaged rural communities.

For further information on the INTERREG IVA Programme and how partners in Western Scotland can apply to it, please visit the INTERREG IVA section of the SEUPB website: www.seupb.eu

Image: Howard Keery, centre, Director of the JTS in SEUPB, is joined by, left to right, Caroline Coleman, National Contact Point in Scotland for the INTERREG IVA Programme and Melissa Mackin, Scottish Government representative who each addressed potential projects during the one day conference at Loch Lomond.





Early Years

The World Forum on Early Care and Education came to Belfast in June 2009 bringing over 600 delegates from 78 countries here.

The World Forum covered a multitude of issues pertaining to young children; their education, welfare, development, HIV and AIDS, and the role of men in childcare.

Northern Ireland was chosen as the venue for this prestigious international event ahead of Johannesburg and Hawaii because of the innovative approaches to early years care and education which are being developed here. Of particular importance is the growing evidence base developed in Northern Ireland in relation to the power of early childhood initiatives to promote conflict resolution and peace building.

As a key note speaker at the conference Pat Colgan, chief executive of the SEUPB, reaffirmed the contribution the European Union has made in supporting the early years sector through the PEACE Programmes.

Speaking prior to the conference, Siobhan Fitzpatrick, Chief Executive of Early Years - the organisation for young children said that the event is hugely significant for both the city of Belfast and the early years sector here in Northern Ireland.

"This conference is the culmination of years of work, and I'm delighted that it is now upon us. The delegates have been arriving now for a few days and it's a very exciting time for all of us who have been involved in bringing this conference to Northern Ireland."

Seaweed could hold answer to sustainable future of fuel

The £5 million (€6 million) tripartite INTERREG IVA funded BioMara bio-marine energy research project, spearheaded by marine scientists based in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Ireland is now well underway, with an official launch in Belfast on 17 June by Northern Ireland Energy Minister Arlene Foster.

Addressing stakeholders at the event in the Northern Ireland Science Park, Arlene Foster said: "The BioMara project is an excellent example of practical regional cooperation between Northern Ireland, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland on an issue of fundamental concern to our economies - sustainable energy. The European Union is committed to getting 10% of road transport fuel from renewable sources by 2020 and I commend the Special European Union's Programme Body for its financial support for the project."

Speaking at the event, Dr Michele Stanley from

Image: Pictured with Northern Ireland Energy Minister Arlene Foster are, from left to right, Howard Keery, SEUPB, Dr Michele Stanley, SAMS and Bob Hanna, DCENR.

the Scottish Association for Marine Sciences in Oban said: "With global fossil fuel supplies dwindling and atmospheric carbon dioxide levels affecting climate change, there is an urgent need for new, renewable fuel sources with low net carbon emissions."

Noting that his Department was represented at the launch by Bob Hanna, his Chief Technical Advisor, the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Eamon Ryan said: "DCENR welcomes the arrival of the west of Scotland into the European Union's INTERREG programme. There are many areas of common interest between Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland in the field of energy, and it is very good that the programme allows some of these to be addressed. We commend the Scottish Association for Marine Sciences and all the project partners for their excellent contribution and look forward to a successful outcome."





Irish language Arts, Culture and Enterprise Centre to Open

An Gaeláras, the Irish language Arts and Cultural organisation based in the North West, completed construction of a new purpose-built Irish language Arts, Culture and Business Enterprise Centre on Great James Street in Londonderry, earlier this month.

The project, which cost in the region of £4 million, has been in the planning and fundraising stages since 2002. It is supported by a range of funding agencies including the European Union's PEACE II Programme administered by the SEUPB through the Derry Local Strategy Partnership.



Chief executive of An Gaeláras Gearoid O hEára said:

“This project is of major strategic importance to the Irish language community and to the city as a whole; it is symbolic of a language community which is eager to reach out to all communities and its development is an invitation to all to use the centre and to take ownership of the space as a community building.”

Speaking after a tour of the new building SEUPB's chief executive Pat Colgan said:

“This project which has been assisted by the European Union's PEACE II fund under measure 3.1 is aimed at local economic initiatives for developing local communities. An Gaelaras demonstrates how the local community has taken this opportunity to create the space where people can develop new skills, as well as promoting cultural diversity while building an inclusive ethos for learning.”

Image: Pat Colgan, right, chief executive of the SEUPB was given a tour prior to the opening of the building by Gearoid O hEára, chief executive of An Gaeláras.

Open Days 2009 - Get Registered!

Following on from the 2008 Open Days event in Brussels, the European Peace Network will once again be hosting a workshop, discussing how to share the lessons and experiences across Europe in relation to emerging from conflict and achieving peace and reconciliation. To register for the Peace Network workshop (workshop code: 06C17) on Tuesday 6 October 2009, go to http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/opendays/od2005/conf/od2009/?fo=1 or email: peace.network@seupb.eu

SEUPB Launches new website

Over the last number of months SEUPB staff have been working on redeveloping and improving the Body's website at

www.seupb.eu

The site will be more interactive, with increased accessibility and will continue to be a useful resource of information about the SEUPB, the Programmes and other European Union funding issues. The new site will be going live over the summer months and feedback, as always is welcomed, please email us at: feedback@seupb.eu

New Communications Manager for SEUPB

John McCandless has been appointed as the SEUPB's Communications Manager. A graduate of St. Andrews University, Scotland, John has over eight years worth of experience within the communications industry. He has worked within both public and private sector environments,

providing strategic PR advice and implementing high-profile integrated communication campaigns. John has worked with a wide-range of blue chip clients for two separate PR agencies as well as the press office of the region's economic development agency - Invest Northern Ireland.

