Gina McIntyre
Chief Executive
Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)
Legislative Background to the SEUPB

• The SEUPB is one of six cross-border bodies established under the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement (1998).

• In furtherance of the Agreement, the British-Irish Agreement Act (1999) identified six areas for North/South cooperation, specifically:
  – Agriculture
  – Education
  – Transport
  – Environment
  – Health
  – Tourism

• The SEUPB operates under the policy direction of the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) and is accountable to the Northern Ireland Executive and the Oireachtas.
Role of the SEUPB

- The primary role of the SEUPB is to manage cross-border EU Structural Funds programmes in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland, and parts of Western Scotland, specifically:
  - The European Union’s Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE); and
  - The European Union’s Cross-Border Programme for Territorial Cooperation (INTERREG A).

- In addition, the SEUPB also facilitates project participation in the INTERREG B Transnational Programmes which are relevant to Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland, as well as the INTERREG C Interregional Programmes, which are open to projects across the EU.
The PEACE Programme

- The PEACE Programme was developed in 1995 as a direct result of the European Union’s desire to respond positively to the opportunities presented by developments in the Northern Ireland peace process.

- It is a unique cross-border initiative designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

- PEACE aims to enhance social and economic stability, in particular through actions to promote cohesion between communities.
  - PEACE II (2000-2006)
  - PEACE III (2007-2013)
  - PEACE IV (2014-2020)
Impact of PEACE Programme

- **PEACE I – III** (1995-2013) total investment of **€1.99 billion**.
- Supported hundreds of thousands of projects to promote peace and stability within the region.
- **PEACE III impact:**
  - 6,999 receive trauma counselling,
  - 189,007 attend anti-sectarian/racism events,
  - 25,429 attend conflict resolution training.

PEACE: Cross-border Programme for Border Region of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
PEACE III Project Example

- Located between Cavan, Fermanagh and Monaghan, the centre is encouraging greater levels of interaction from young people from different religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
PEACE III Project Example

• The Football for All project uses football as a hook to promote peace and reconciliation as well as reduce sectarianism and racism with those involved in the sport.

• It does this by building the capacity of football clubs, fans and communities to address these issues head on.
The INTERREG Programme

- European Territorial Cooperation, better known as INTERREG, aims to promote greater territorial cohesion.
- INTERREG VA is one of 60 such programmes across all 28 Member States under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).
- It was created to support cross-border cooperation for a more prosperous and sustainable region.
  - INTERREG IA (1990-1993)
  - INTERREG IIA (1994-1999)
  - INTERREG IIIA (2000-2006)
  - INTERREG IVA (2007-2013)
  - INTERREG VA (2014-2020)
Impact of INTERREG Programme

- **INTERREG IA – IIIA** (1991-2013) total investment of €851m.

- Supported tens of thousands of projects to build a sustainable and prosperous cross-border region.

- **INTERREG IVA impact:**
  - 3,552 businesses supported,
  - 954 new jobs created,
  - 121,741 beneficiaries in health, rural development, enterprise and tourism.
INTERREG IVA Project Example

Cross-border Enterprise Rail project
INTERREG IVA Project  Example

Cross-border CAWT Pre-Pregnancy Diabetes Clinic Project

• Service operated within Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Londonderry/Derry and Erne Hospital, Enniskillen.
• Women attending the clinics had the opportunity to avail of advice on how to obtain healthy blood sugar levels before pregnancy and learn of the extensive benefits this will have for their future baby.
I.B.I.S. (Integrated Aquatic Resource Management between Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland)

- Multi-million pound collaboration initiative aimed at protecting aquatic resources across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland
Cross-border Impact of PEACE & INTERREG

- SEUPB - long history of providing opportunities for cross-border participation and dialogue through PEACE & INTERREG Programmes (2000-2013).

- Programmes have:
  - Improved cross-border public sector collaboration;
  - Developed cross-border reconciliation and understanding;
  - Promoted joint approaches to social education, training and human resource development.
Cross-border Impact of PEACE & INTERREG

- Since 2007 SEUPB has managed funding to projects of cross-border benefit in:
  - Enterprise & Tourism
  - Health & Social Care
  - Public Sector Collaboration
  - Rural Development
  - Energy & Environment
  - Roads & Transport
  - Telecommunications
Cross-border Impact of PEACE & INTERREG

- SEUPB has championed cross-border peace and reconciliation initiatives via:
  - Local Area Action Plans
  - Regional development
  - Dealing with the past
  - Creating Shared Spaces
  - Key Institutional Capacities
PEACE IV Programme
Objectives


**Shared Education** (€35.3m) – 350 schools and 144,000 school years to provide direct, sustained curriculum-based contact. (Call open, at Stage 2).

**Children & Young People** (€54.7m) – support for 7,400 marginalised young people aged 14-24 years to help them form positive relationships with others of a different background.

**Shared Spaces & Services** (€99.3m) – 8 capital build projects to help create a more cohesive society and provide support to 11,350 victims and survivors of the conflict. (Call open for victims, at Stage 2).

**Building Positive Relations** (€51.7m) – 17 Local Peace Plans and 20 regional level projects to promote positive cross-community relations, respect and cultural diversity. (Call open, at Stage 2 for LA’s).

**Research & Innovation** (€71.7m) – 514 years of PhD research, 1,408 enterprises receiving support to increase the number of SMEs engaged in development of new products, processes and tradeable services. (Call open, at Stage 2 SC).

**Environment** (€84.6m) – 25 conservation action plans to protect natural habitats and improved wastewater treatment to benefit over 10,000 people. (Call open, at Stage 2 SC).

**Sustainable Transport** (€47m) – 80km of new cross-border greenways and 1 multi-modal hub to promote cross-border, sustainable mobility. (Call open, at Stage 2 SC for greenways).

**Health & Social Care** (€62m) – Support for 4,000 socially isolated disabled people and 12 cross-border health interventions for 15,000 beneficiaries to improve the health and well-being of people across the region. (Call open, at Stage 2 SC).
Progress on Programme Implementation

• Impact of the UK vote to leave the EU

• Political support for both Programmes (NI Executive and Irish Government)

• Practical challenges:
  - HMT statement 12 August
  - Assessment decisions to take advantage of that assurance
  - Latest HMT statement
Implementation Challenges

- Practical implementation issues of the assessment process - Assurances of funding from UK, Ireland and the EC
- Timeframe - assumptions on Article 50 transition negotiations
- Managing potential project durations to manage risk of financial exposure
- Expenditure pre and post-2018, uncertainty within Accountable Departments
- Future losses
Thank you