



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

# The PEACE Programmes Ireland / Northern Ireland

**OSCE Chairmanship Conference  
'Shared Future: Building and Sustaining Peace'  
the Northern Ireland Case Study**

**Pat Colgan  
Chief Executive,  
Special EU Programmes Body**



**European Union**  
European Regional  
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# The Geography

- Population  
**2.1 million**
- Size  
**25,691 sq km**
- All 6 counties of Northern Ireland and 6 border counties of Ireland



# The PEACE Programmes 1995 - 2013



# History of the PEACE Programmes

**PEACE Programmes** - EU's positive response to the Northern Ireland peace process. Initiative of MEPs and European Commission.

**PEACE I (1995)** – Addressed the **immediate legacy of the conflict** and took advantage of the opportunities arising from peace.

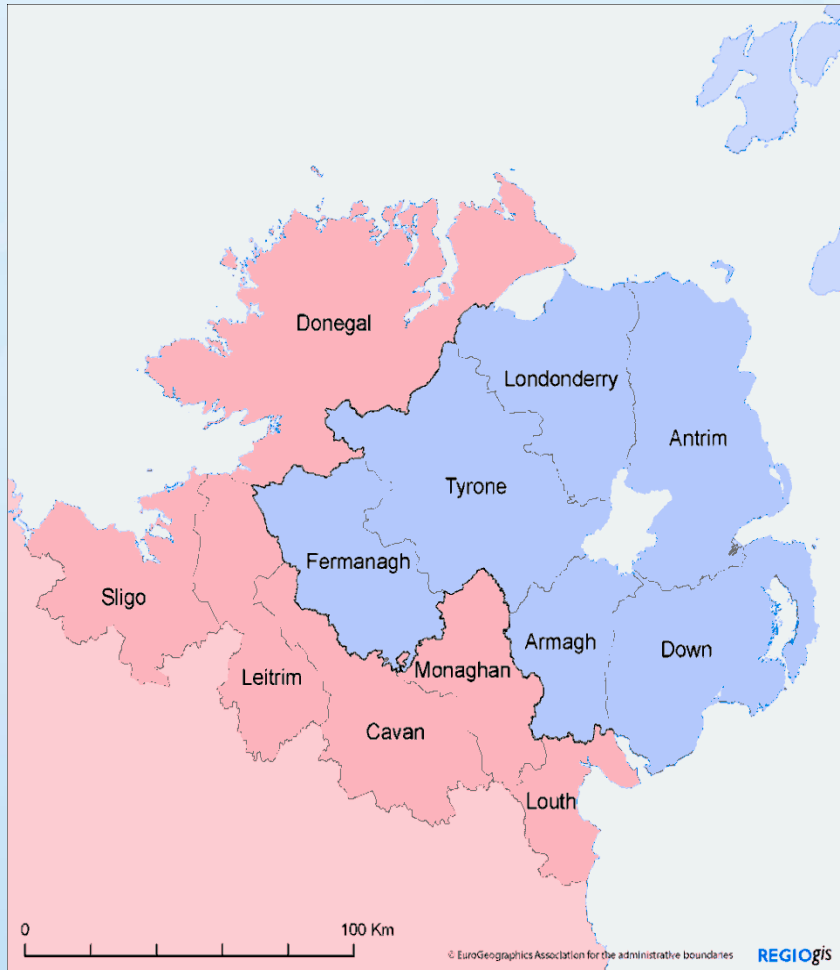
**PEACE II (2000)** – Reinforced progress towards a peaceful and stable society through **economic development and cross-border co-operation**.

**PEACE III (2007)** – Reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society by **promoting reconciliation**.

**The Future? – Social cohesion in a shared society**

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# History of the PEACE Programmes



## **PEACE I** – 1995 to 1999:

- Over 15,000 funded projects – €667 million

## **PEACE II** – 2000 to 2006:

- Over 7,000 funded projects – €995 million

## **PEACE III** – 2007 to 2013:

- Over 400 mostly large scale strategic projects – €333 million



# PEACE II (2000-2006) - Achievements

PEACE II (2000-2006)	Number
Programme participants	868,420
Individuals participating in cross-border activities	161,599
Individuals participating in Reconciliation projects	42,772
Number of groups involved in Reconciliation Projects	1,638
Individuals gaining qualifications	100,767
Individuals entering or progressing in employment, education and training	77,652

**\*According to NISRA (NI Statistic and Research Agency, May 2010).**

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# PEACE III (2007 – 2013)

## The Four Pillars:

- **Building positive relations at the local level – involvement of local authorities (€140 million)**
- **Acknowledging and dealing with the past – victims and survivors (€50 million)**
- **Creating shared public spaces (€80 million)**
- **Building capacity for a shared future (€40 million)**



# PEACE III (2007 – 2013) - Examples

## Groundwork NI

- **Project:** 'Reconciling Communities Through Regeneration'
- **Assistance:** £988,307
- Regenerates local areas and reduces displays of sectarian aggression i.e. Peace walls, murals, flags, painted kerb stones etc.



Community Interface area, North Belfast



# PEACE III (2007 – 2013) - Examples

## Ilex Urban Regeneration – Derry/Londonderry

- **Project:** Peace Bridge
- **Assistance:** £14.6m
- **Iconic Peace Bridge** which links the former military base at Ebrington to the Guildhall.
- **Physical symbol of change**, encouraging greater level of cross-community engagement, peace and reconciliation.



Peace bridge, Derry-Londonderry

# PEACE III (2007 – 2013) - Examples

## Irish Football Association (IFA)

- **Project:** 'Football for All'
- **Assistance:** £354,696
- Project works at local level with clubs and fans to eradicate sectarianism and promote good relations.
- Provides ongoing 'Good Relations' awareness training for coaches and volunteers.



# PEACE III (2007 – 2013) - Examples

## WAVE Trauma Centre

- **Project:** 'Back to the Future' project
- **Assistance:** €300,000
- Support programme offered to young people aged 5-25 years who have been affected by the conflict.
- Offers trauma counselling, educational support and citizenship training on a cross-community basis.



Participants perform a play recounting their experiences of the conflict



# PEACE III (2007 – 2013) - Examples

## Rural Development Council

- **Project:** B.R.I.C. (Building Relationships in Communities)
- **Assistance:** £3.5m
- Encourage greater levels of social integration in the housing sector.
- Provide training programmes to residents groups in 80 housing estates across NI.
- Facilitate better residential planning in the border areas.



# Some lessons from the PEACE Programmes

- The visible and invisible legacy of the conflict
  - The importance of the local dimension – involving communities and their elected representatives – building local capacity
  - The ‘post-conflict’ generation
  - Build awareness of opportunities and break down barriers to co-operation
  - A long journey with positive steps taken – many more to go
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# PEACE IV (2014)? - Emerging Themes

- Reconciliation within and between communities – the ‘Peace Walls’
- Young people – a future built on social, economic and community cohesion
- Legacy of the past – Opportunities of the future: unlocking the potential
- Reaching out – engaging and involving hard to reach communities
- Building capacity for a shared future
- Sharing Experiences with other regions



‘Hands Across the Divide,’ Derry-Londonderry



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Thank you.

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