



Special EU Programmes Body
Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
Special EU Skemes Boadie

Citizens' Summary: Annual Implementation Report 2021

**Total
Programme
Value
€270m**

What does the PEACE IV Programme do?

The PEACE Programme is a unique cross-border EU initiative designed to support peace and reconciliation across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

Since 1995, the programme has provided almost €2.3bn in funding to tens of thousands of projects which have helped to create a more cohesive and forward-looking society.




The current programme, PEACE IV has four distinct areas where it is continuing to make meaningful change. It supports vulnerable children and young people; tackles sectarianism and racism; creates new shared spaces and services; and funds shared education.

 **96** projects supported

 **€279m** committed to date

Shared Education

What has been achieved under shared education?

-  **492** schools involved
-  **121,868** children participating
-  **2,417** teachers trained

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Children & Young People




How have children and young people been supported?

-  **29** projects supported
-  **28,413** young people participating
-  **68%** of participants socialise with young people from a different community

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Shared Space & Services

What shared spaces & services have been created?

-  **25** new shared spaces
-  **4,199** citizens receiving advocacy support
-  **11,686** citizens receiving resilience support

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Building Positive Relations

What has been done to combat racism & sectarianism?

-  **38** projects supported in total
-  **Over 30,000** people engaged
-  **17** local PEACE Action plans engaging participants in meaningful and sustained contact between people from different communities

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*Some of the above figures, under each theme, are self-reported by funded projects and subject to final verification.

What is being funded?

COLLABORATION AND SHARING IN EDUCATION PROJECT (CASE)

CASE was open to all schools in the six border counties of Ireland and those in Northern Ireland not involved in the Delivering Social Change Signature Project for Shared Education.

Through working in partnership, the schools participating in CASE promoted community cohesion, enhanced educational outcomes for all pupils and provided shared professional development.

Shared education enabled schools from different sectors and communities to work in partnership, providing opportunities for pupils, staff, and the wider community to engage in collaborative and meaningful learning experiences.

Although the project was hampered by the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic at the beginning of 2020, the CASE team quickly began a new initiative - allowing them to continue supporting schools in their shared education journeys.

'Share the Walk' took advantage of already-established cross-border resources by teaming up pupils, staff and the wider school community with the 'My Virtual Mission' app which focused on achieving walking milestones. Each week, participants took virtual walks together and met the challenges the CASE team issued through the app. These tied in with not only the pupils' wellbeing goals, but also the PE and maths curricula. As permanent reminders of their 'travels', pupils created posters of what they had discovered along the way - or their schools planted trees to mark the distances covered by the children.



YOUTHSCAPE

This was a cross-border, cross-community, interventionist initiative, developed by South West College in counties Fermanagh and Tyrone, alongside Donegal Youth Service and TIDES Training. The project delivered a proactive, youth-focused programme for young people aged 14-24. It operated across Omagh, Enniskillen, Dungannon, Ballybofey and Letterkenny with more than 800 young people engaging for at least six months.



Youthscape created a 'person-centred' approach to learning. Each participant was assigned a key youth worker at the outset to help ease them into a group setting. Any barriers the young people faced were identified and they were signposted to additional support as required.

A typical week for participants included day trips, group work, studying for an Open College Network (OCN) accredited qualification in Vocational Studies and one-to-one mentoring with their dedicated youth worker.

Music, sports, cooking workshops and art activities formed part of the project and a dramatic display of graffiti art was created by the young people following a workshop event with local organisation, UV-Arts.

Each group also worked on a social impact project to raise funds for a nominated charity. One of these, the One Million Steps Walking Challenge, raised more than £2,600 in just 24 hours for Pieta House, which operates across Ireland and provides support to those who self-harm or are in suicidal distress.

CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTION PLAN

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council was the lead partner in a project which received almost €2 million in funding under the PEACE IV theme of Building Positive Relations, Local Authority Plans.

Under this theme, programmes were put in place which facilitated the exploration of the Borough's rich cultural diversity. These focused on language, heritage, history and ethnicity and together, they facilitated meaningful, purposeful and sustained contact between different communities.

One of these was, Shared Spaces and Services, where local organisations and associations were encouraged to share community spaces or contested areas - and to value the importance of networking with each other. More than 400 people were involved in two initiatives called, Shaping Your Community Programme and Shaping Your Place Programme.

Under another objective, Children and Young People, the focus was on ensuring more than 1,100 participants under the age of 24 completed courses that helped develop their soft skills and respect for diversity. One initiative, which involved young people in Good Relations Out of School resulted in a new mosaic artwork on Ballycastle seafront, on the north coast.

Through a series of workshops, two local artists worked with students from Cross and Passion College and Ballycastle High School to design and create the coastal-themed piece. Students contributed ideas and made individual tiles to insert into the overall work.



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