

## PEACE IV Louth Programme Newsletter No 7 – December 2020



Welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> and Christmas edition of the Louth PEACE IV Newsletter.

The PEACE IV projects are supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special European Programmes Body (SEUPB) and supported locally by Louth County Council and Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

We are however, extraordinarily impressed by how the PEACE IV funded projects continue to find new and innovative ways to deliver upon their outputs.

All projects are still very much active. This has not been without its challenges but the PEACE IV secretariat will continue to support all of the funded projects at this very difficult time.

### COVID – 19



The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic continues.

### PEACE PLUS Programme



PEACE PLUS is a new EU cross-border programme that will contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border

Region of Ireland. The overall objective of the PEACE PLUS Programme will be to build prosperity and peace within the region, to ensure that this Programme will leave a lasting and tangible 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 region. It will build upon previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes.

A considerable amount of preparatory work, research and stakeholder engagement has already taken place in the development of the new PEACE PLUS Programme (2021–2027). The statutory consultation is due to take place soon.



## Good Relations Initiative

2020 has been a very difficult year for young people with many feeling disconnected from their communities.

Louth Volunteer Centre’s Good Relations Initiative took advantage of the ease in restrictions in August to host a Life Skills programme for young people alongside Boomerang Youth Café Drogheda and the New Leaf youth project mid-Louth.

The aim of the EU Peace IV funded programme was to give young people a space to explore who they are and the place of young people in our society. The programme also focused on looking at how diverse our society is and supporting young people to embrace this diversity.

Participants also explored how important volunteers are to our communities and the

benefits of young people volunteering in their own community.

Gráinne Berrill, Louth Volunteer Centre Manager noted “Louth Volunteer Centre’s role is essentially about building connections; helping people to feel connected to one another and their community through volunteerism. Now more than ever it is so important for young people to feel that connection so we are delighted to have Been able to facilitate these Life skills programmes in Ardee and Drogheda”

For more information on the Good Relations Initiative please contact Mairéad or Tracy at 041 9809008 or email [info@volunteerlouth.ie](mailto:info@volunteerlouth.ie).



Participants taking part in the Good Relations Initiative Project funded by PEACE IV.



Lifeskills Programme participants –Good Relations Initiative



## Creative Interventions - Muirhevnamor

The PEACE IV funded Creative Interventions is working closely with the community in Muirhevnamor as an identified target group of the local Peace Programme.

One identified area of need was the young people of the area especially after the COVID lockdown period in 2020.

The Creative Interventions Project organised a positive thinking course and a creative course in September 2020. The young people themselves came up with the idea to paint a mural in Clann Naofa Boxing Club.

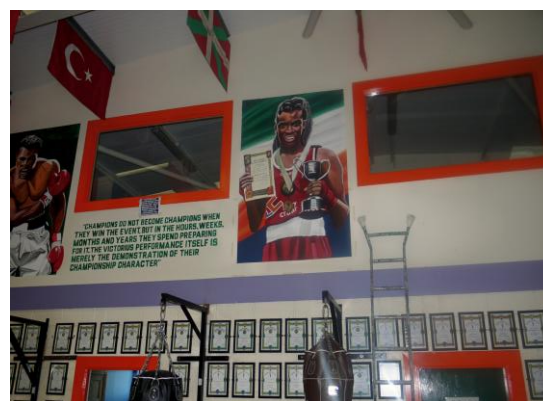
The Boxing Club represents a positive local centre for discipline, health and fitness and provides a sense of community for the young people. The Mural Project built on this.

A growing body of research has positively identified murals with social, cultural and economic benefits as well as positive mental health through group work and increased creativity. Murals also offer accessibility to art and creative expression as well as promoting a sense of identical, belonging, attachment.

It is now widely recognised even among the Peace Building community that creativity allows us to move beyond what exists today towards something new and unknowable tomorrow. Creative Interventions aims to develop more than skills, it tries to change young people's thinking by creative output.



Participants taking part in the PEACE IV, Creative Interventions project at of Clann Naofa Boxing Club



Murals on the wall of Clann Naofa Boxing Club, PEACE IV, Creative Interventions, Muirhevnamor Project.



## Creative Interventions - Songlines

LMETB's Creative Interventions Project ran a very successful three week programme in partnership with Music Generation Louth in **Colaiste Ris** for the school's TY students.

Over 70 students learnt a variety of music skills and also interacted with music from different cultures as a means of breaking down barriers. The students were expertly guided throughout the project by Music Generation Louth tutors Paul Campbell and Conor Walsh.

Irene Lawless, the TY Co-ordinator in Colaiste Ris College said "Our Transition Year students really loved this course because it allowed them to use their creativity to make their own tracks. It was a really enjoyable way of learning outside of the classroom."

TY students from **O'Faich College** also took part in the project with over 83 TY students participating.

"O'Faich College TY students found the Songlines music course really enjoyable, uplifting and a confidence builder. We hope there will be more in the future" said TY Co-ordinator Patricia Ketterick.

TY Students from **St. Vincent's Secondary School** also took part in the Songlines Project.

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Colaiste Ris students participating in the PEACE IV Creative Interventions, Songlines Project



Students from O'Faich College taking part in the PEACE IV funded Creative Interventions, Songlines Project



St. Vincents Secondary School students taking part in the PEACE IV funded Creative Interventions Songlines project.



## Engagement and Signposting Services

The project is back onto the streets of Clogherhead, Dunleer, Carlingford, Omeath and Ardee, adhering to social distancing guidelines.

The project is lucky as it is a detached programme which works with young people from the 5 areas where the young people are so they ensure the young people are socially distancing themselves. The youth workers meet with the young people in parks, on the street and can signpost them to mainstream projects or services that they may need.

During the lockdown the youth workers engaged with them over social media with quizzes, mental and physical health tips to get the young people through the days and weeks of lockdown.

As part of the PEACE IV funded project the youths on the project engaged in a Zoom call with speakers from Nationalist and Protestant communities including a British Soldier.

In September the project finished up its Cross Community element with a day to visit to a decommissioned British Army base in South Armagh. The young people also took part in some activities. This day gave the young people from the local area, Cooley and Omeath an idea of how close the conflict was. They could see their areas from the Watchtower location.



**Speakers from Nationalist and Protestant communities engaging with Youth over Zoom as part of the PEACE IV funded project Engagement and Signposting Services**



**Social day out in Forkhill, Co Armagh as part of the PEACE IV funded project Engagement and Signposting Services.**



**Youths taking part in a social day out in Carlingford, Co. Louth as part of the PEACE IV funded project, Engagement and Signposting Services.**

Over the summer months when restrictions were reduced the different groups from the project Engagement and Signposting Services came together for social and cross community events in Forkhill and Carlingford.

The young people were happy to see the Youth workers again and the workers were happy to get back out of the streets.

The project is supported by the European Union’s PEACE IV Programme, managed by one Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)”.|



**Season's Greetings and Happy New Year from  
Therese, Marie and Aisling at the PEACE IV  
Office, Louth County Council.**

