

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

PEACEPLUS Newsletter

Edition 1 - Summer 2025



PEACEPLUS PROGRAMME

PEACEPLUS is a new, ambitious cross-border funding programme totalling €1.1bn and is a partnership between the European Union, the Governments of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and the Northern Ireland Executive. It is managed by Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

€110m has been allocated to 17 County Council's across Northern Ireland and the border counties to develop programmes under Theme 1: Building Peaceful & Thriving Communities Area 1.1 Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plans.

DONEGAL PEACEPLUS ACTION PLAN

Donegal County Council and the PEACEPLUS Partnership Committee officially launched the Donegal Co-designed Local Community PEACEPLUS Action Plan and secured funding of €7,635,395.00

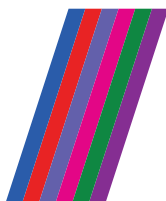
Allocated across 3 themes:

1. Local community regeneration and transformation
2. Thriving and peaceful communities
3. Building respect for all cultural identities

Donegal's Co-Designed Action Plan was approved for the full allocation in June 2024. The timeframe for delivery of our Action Plan is April 2024 to December 2027.



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the



European Union



UK Government



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



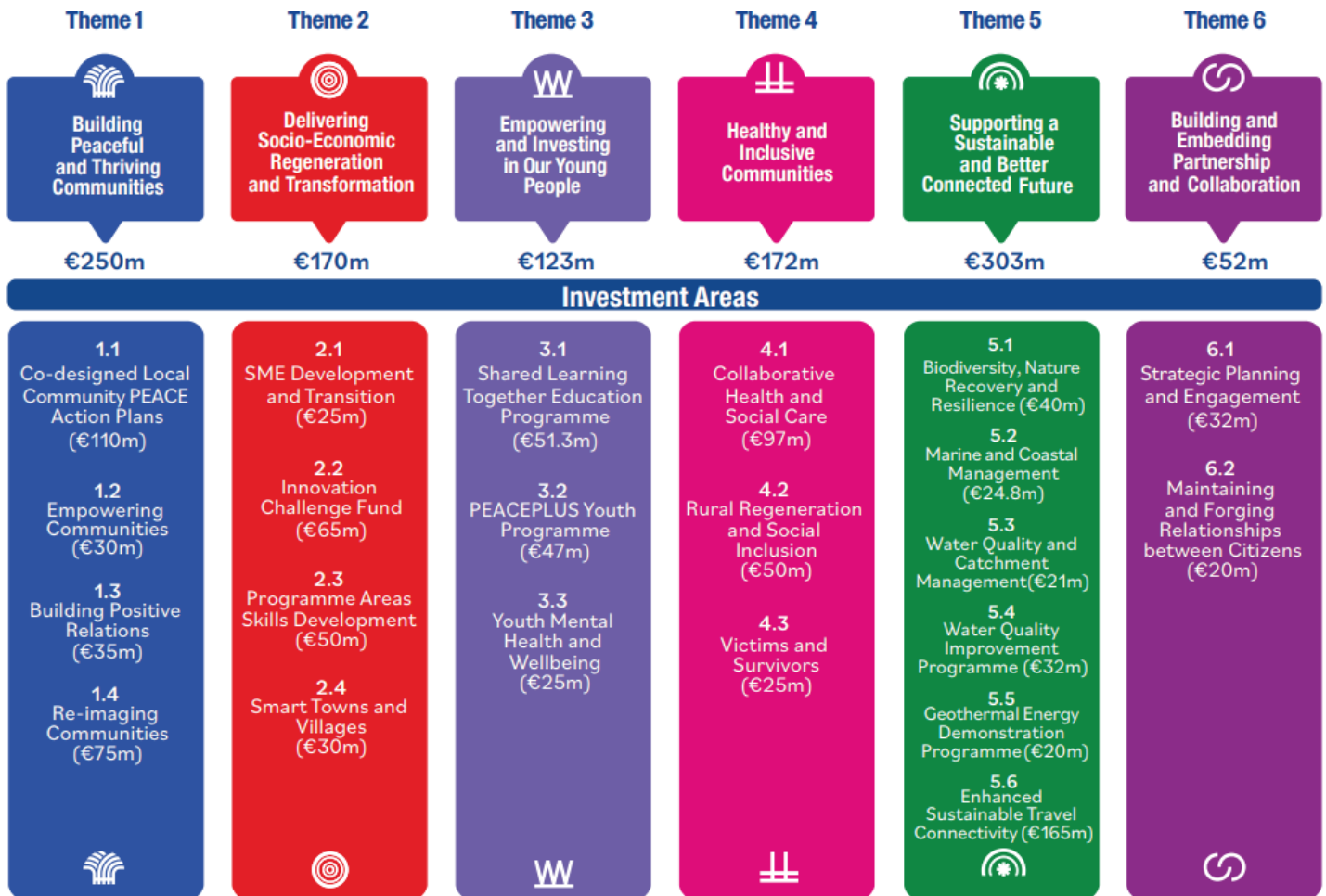
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Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Aitiúil
Dhún na nGall
Donegal Local Community Development
Committee

PEACEPLUS Programme

Thematic Areas



PEACEPLUS consists of six key priorities or themes, encompassing 22 investment areas.

Funding will be delivered across six themes, including: Building Peaceful, Thriving and Inclusive Communities, Empowering and Investing in Our Young People, supporting a Sustainable and Better-Connected Future, Building Partnership and Collaboration, and crucially, Delivering Socio-Economic Regeneration and Transformation.

The design of the Programme reflects the importance of peace-building activity, but also the importance of actions that will contribute positively to the economy, building prosperity and adjusting to the new environment and challenges we face.

WELCOME



As Chair of the Donegal PEACEPLUS Partnership, I'm pleased to introduce the first edition of our PEACEPLUS Newsletter — your go-to guide for the latest updates on the implementation of the Donegal PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan.

Inside, you'll find details of the transformative programmes now underway across Donegal. These 32 projects represent a significant social and financial investment in our County, aimed at creating lasting and meaningful change.

With the goal of engaging over 7,635 participants from diverse backgrounds, each project is designed to promote respect for diversity, strengthen cross-community and cross-border relationships, and foster genuine inclusion.

The Donegal PEACEPLUS Partnership is proud to support this ambitious Local Action Plan. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with the SEUPB, Donegal County Council's PEACEPLUS Team, and communities throughout the County.

Together, we are committed to maximising the impact of the PEACEPLUS Programme by delivering meaningful and sustainable outcomes across its three core themes: enhancing social inclusion, promoting cross-community and cross-border integration, and building a more cohesive and connected future for all.

We remain dedicated to working closely with our community stakeholders to realise the full potential of this transformative programme.

Above all, we hope each participant will find the experience enriching—forming new connections, engaging collaboratively, and creating lasting memories.

Cllr. Paul Canning

Chair of PEACEPLUS Partnership



PEACEPLUS is a new EU funding initiative aimed at promoting peace and prosperity in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. Building on the successes of previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes, we are excited to launch its next chapter here in Donegal.

This allocation marks the latest financial support from the EU through the PEACE Programme. By 2027, PEACEPLUS will represent a 32-year commitment from Europe to peace and reconciliation on this island and in our County.

Over the next two years, we will implement 26 cross-community and border social impact programmes, along with six capital projects that will help revitalise and transform local areas and communities throughout our County.

These diverse and innovative projects aim to strengthen cross-community and cross-border connections, with a particular focus on fostering deeper, sustained relationships. The richness and calibre of these initiatives are a testament to the dedication of our local community stakeholders, the Donegal PEACEPLUS Partnership, and Donegal County Council.

PEACEPLUS is much more than just a funding programme; it is a catalyst for positive change. It aims to leave a lasting legacy by empowering local communities, building bridges between diverse groups, challenging prejudice, and deepening our understanding of one another. Ultimately, it will contribute significantly to peace and reconciliation across this region.

Cllr. Niamh Kennedy

Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council

INTRODUCTION

Action Plan

Donegal's Plan was developed utilising a three staged local co-designed engagement process, which resulted in the creation of 32 significant initiatives and impactful projects under three thematic areas.

The three thematic areas of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

1. Local community regeneration and transformation – Six countywide infrastructure projects
2. Thriving and peaceful communities - Eight countywide programmes and five Municipal District focused
3. Building respect for all cultural identities - Eight countywide programmes and five Municipal District focused

This plan will directly benefit 7,635 participants, providing them with opportunities to engage in a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable community ecosystems. It is focused on building peace and prosperity for all citizens, and its impact will be felt across all our communities.

The long-term goals of this Action Plan include:

- Increased levels of social inclusion and cross community integration.
- Incorporate the level of sustained contact between those from different community, cultural and political backgrounds, required to achieve significant attitudinal and behavioural change.
- Increased levels of understanding and integration of minority communities, including newcomer families.
- Improved and sustained relationships between and within communities by addressing issues of trust, prejudice, and intolerance.
- Interventions which contribute towards building positive relations.
- Development of stronger relationships.
- Development of knowledge, understanding and respect.
- Greater sense of belonging.
- Increased knowledge about the circumstances and beliefs of others.
- Greater inclusion, less exclusion, and better interconnectedness.
- Skills enhancement.
- Develop sustained cross border linkage and collaboration.
- Increased environmental awareness & actions.
- Better physical & mental health.

DONEGAL'S PEACEPLUS PARTNERSHIP

Donegal County Council established a PEACEPLUS Partnership as a sub-structure of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). The principal role of the Partnership is to oversee the design and implementation of a co-designed process in the County which will be used to inform the development of an overarching PEACEPLUS Action Plan for Donegal.

The Partnership is representative of communities across the County and includes Elected Members, Statutory representatives and Social Partners.

Donegal's PEACEPLUS Partnership Committee consists of 25 members across 4 pillars, the first meeting was held in September 2022 and the Partnership continues to meet regularly to oversee the implementation of Donegal's PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

Pillar 1: Elected Members & CEO Nominee

Cllr Paul Canning (Chair)
Cllr Gerry Mc Monagle
Cllr Michéal Mc Clafferty
Cllr Michael Boyle
Cllr Patrick Mc Gowan
Mr Liam Ward, Director of Community, Development & Planning

Pillar 2: Public Sector Bodies

Health Service Executive: Ms Virginia Reid
An Garda Síochána: Sergeant Paul Mc Gee
Donegal Education & Training Board: Mr. Aidan Mc Closkey
Údúras na Gaeltachta: Ms. Martina Ní Chanainn
Tusla, Child & Family Agency: Mr Martin Keeney

Pillar 3: Social Partners

Inishowen Development Partnership: Ms. Shauna Mc Clenaghan
Donegal Local Development Company: Mr. Padraic Fingleton
Irish Congress of Trade Unions: Mr. Richy Carrothers
CMSA Head Office - Farming Community: Mr. James O'Donnell
PPN Environment Representative- Donegal South Forum: Mr. Jimmy Scott
Comhar na nOileán: Ms. Máire Uí Mhaoláin

Pillar 4: PEACEPLUS Target Groups

Donegal Intercultural Platform: Mr. Paul Kernan
Older Persons Council: Ms. Mary Mc Gowan
Donegal Youth Service: Ms. Charlene Logue
Donegal Travellers Project: Ms. Siobhan McLaughlin
Scioból Ban na Rosann Dungloe: Ms. Roseann Ní Ghallachóir
Minority Faith: Mr. David Mahon
Minority Faith: Reverend Colin McKibbin
Donegal Centre of Independent Living: Ms. Rosaleen Doherty



A co-design workshop at Letterkenny Public Services Centre



One of the display tables during codesign sessions



One of the 48 workshops putting the codesign process into the PEACEPLUS context, this time in the Gaeltacht area of Glenties.



At the start of a co-design workshop at Cill Charta GAA Hall in Kilcar



A workshop group talking priorities for their area



What concepts ideas are discussed



PEACEPLUS workshop in stage three of codesign



The Orange Order put on a display in a co-design Workshop



PEACEPLUS Consultation launch with Donegal PEACEPLUS Partnership



DCC PEACEPLUS Workshop Donegal Town



PEACEPLUS banner



One of the workshop promotional tweets

CO-DESIGN CONSULTATION FOR THE PLAN



During 2023, the action plan was developed through a three-stage, locally co-designed engagement process involving the wider community. The PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan aimed to empower communities to contribute to the development of priority projects and programmes for inclusion in the Plan.

The process included:

July 2022 - Establishment of PEACEPLUS Partnership Committee.

February 2023 - Launch of the consultation process,
35 people engaged through the Partnership and Council.

April 2023 - Approximately 60 people attended workshops in each Municipal District specifically focusing on sectors and equality groups.

May 2023 - Around 600 people attended 48 workshops,
1,477 votes were cast in polling and discussion at workshops.

June 2023 - 82 Project Concept forms received.

Oct 2023 - 239 people completed an online survey,
Over 2,000 people accessed information from the website and web page.

November 2023 - 31 Theme One Capital Project forms received,
Projects agreed and signed off by the PEACEPLUS Partnership.

February 2024 - Submission of the Plan to SEUPB.

June 2024 - The Plan was approved by the SEUPB, Funding Announcement via Press Release and Social Media.

October 2024 - Letter of offer received from the SEUPB,
Commencement of procurement process for programmes under themes 2 & 3.

February 2025 – Official Launch of PEACEPLUS Programme.

THEME 1: LOCAL COMMUNITY REGENERATION & TRANSFORMATION

The programmes are designed to empower local people to transform and regenerate communities through infrastructure investment on a cross-community basis.

Donegal's specific objective is to create six co-designed accessible, transformative, and sustainable community shared spaces, that facilitate communication, connection, co-operation, and interaction among users & stakeholders. The spaces are catalysts for bringing communities together and drive intercultural, cross-community & cross-border interaction to build lasting relationships and contribute to peacebuilding.

Project	Description	Area	Budget	Participants
Newtowncunningham Playpark, MUGA, Sensory Garden and Canopy Space	The proposal, provides for a dedicated outdoor Intergenerational recreational shared space, centrally located, and consolidating the village core as a place for all people, providing a vibrant hub for community/border enjoyment.	Inishowen	€500,000	500
The Mall Redevelopment Ballyshannon; The Boat Yard Project	The proposal provides for a dedicated multipurpose outdoor shared space, that will expand and improve one of the town's most historical landmarks, providing a vibrant hub for cross community/border enjoyment.	Donegal	€500,000	500
Loughanure Community Playpark	The proposal provides for an all-Ability Playpark, centrally located next to the local national school. This new facility will enhance this rural village, provide a vibrant hub for cross community/border enjoyment.	Glenties	€250,000	250
Fintown Community Playpark	The proposal provides for an all-Ability Playpark, centrally located next to the Scoil Náisiúnta Colmcille. This new facility will enhance this rural village, provide a vibrant hub for cross community/border enjoyment.	Glenties	€250,000	250
Glencar Outdoor Community Recreation Facility	The proposal provides for a multiuse outdoor shared space, located at Glencar, Letterkenny, with the provision of a Multi Sports Playing Pitch and Community Garden & Allotments providing a vibrant hub for cross community/ border enjoyment.	Letterkenny-Milford	€500,000	500
Drumboe Community Park Development	The proposal provides for an all-Ability Playpark & Walking Trails located in the picturesque forest area of Drumboe Woods, peripheral to the Twins Towns of Ballybofey-Stranorlar. This much needed facility will provide a vibrant hub for cross community/border enjoyment.	Lifford-Stranorlar	€500,000	500

THEME 2: THRIVING & PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES

The programmes will focus on wellbeing, connectedness and empowerment which brings about positive change. The programmes will facilitate communication, social connection, cooperation and interaction among the participants and stakeholders. The activities are a catalyst for bringing communities together and will drive intercultural, cross-community/border interactions, building lasting relationships contributing to community wellbeing and peace building.

Project	Description	Area	Budget	Participants
Social participation and combating exclusion (SPACE) Donegal County Council Programme	The programme will undertake events and activities to explore the issue of accessibility and connectedness and increase social participation especially on an intergenerational basis.	Countywide	€250,000	335-375
Turn Up the Volume for Equality Donegal County Council Programme	Using music and production skills to engage more young people (18-24yrs) in arts and culture.	Countywide	€72,250	100-125
Peace building through sport	Sports Programme centred approach to relationship building.	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
Crossroads	Youth intervention Programme (16-24yrs) at seminal moment.	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
Connection and Citizenship	Youth intervention Programme (10-18yrs) connecting early with others. The Programme will be co designed with a focus on the empowerment, motivation, and skills acquisition of a new generation of active citizens.	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
Power of Visibility	Civic participation and Social Inclusion Programme. The aim of the project is to identify and work with groups and individuals that are traditionally less included in activities and in leadership positions, develop role models and help target groups become more involved in decision-making at community and more public levels across all sectors.	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
Peace building through the environment	The Community Climate Action & Mitigation programme will have a number of strands addressing the need for individualised and community-based climate actions within the County, this programme will aim to have long-term impact with regard to climate adaption across Donegal.	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
Respectful Relations	Youth intervention Programme that engages with public agencies, schools, and community organisations in promoting respectful youth behaviours toward others.	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
Inclusion not Isolation	Mental, physical, social health and wellbeing Programme, targeting equality groups that are isolated due to a variety of factors.	Inishowen	€80,000	110-130
Good Neighbours	Capacity Building Programme that strengthens Cross community/ border Relationships. The project will develop relationships through the medium of sport, arts, drama, culture, health & wellbeing activities, and initiatives.	Donegal	€80,000	110-130
Cultural Connections	Use of traditional music, linguistic and heritage to explore cross community / border relationships.	Glenties	€80,000	110-130
Ethical and Shared Remembering	A process of dialogue and discussion between key actors and communities about the past and development of a civic voice for the future.	Letterkenny-Milford	€80,000	110-130
Champions of the Environment	Using natural features such as the river to support environment champions, promote environmental and ecology awareness, and undertake mitigations to improve the environment.	Lifford-Stranorlar	€80,000	110-130

THEME 3: BUILDING RESPECT FOR ALL CULTURAL IDENTITIES

Programmes focus upon providing support to those most marginalised and underrepresented groups within our communities. Donegal's specific objective is to foster a greater sense of belonging by recognising cultural and religious differences as positive, and by embracing diversity generally; and to increase skills, change behaviours and attitudes, which will reduce sectarianism and racism, reduce poverty and exclusion, and promote a positive intercultural future for all.

Project	Description	Area	Budget	Participants
Our Voices together Donegal County Council Programme	Exploring immigration through lens of newcomers to the county and the Irish experience as emigrants – finding commonalities and finding a home for the stories and experiences.	Countywide	€125,250	170-200
Diversity and Decision-Making in an Intercultural Future	Cultural competency and systemic change – training in interculturalism for communities and for decision-makers across the public and community sectors.	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
Creative Minorities	Events and activities that highlight, promote, and enjoin cultural expression from majority and minority traditions.	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
New Horizons	Understanding the changing demographics and developing responses to prejudice and racism/sectarianism.	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
SHARED Heritage	Programme using intergenerational and intercultural learning to explore shared past and identify commonalities.	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
STEAM Training	Focus on skills development on a cross community and intercultural basis for young people post-primary level to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) subjects, especially from a rural and less engaged background.	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
Food Equality initiative	The programme will help to better understand food inequality in the County and undertake activities to alleviate food poverty support existing initiatives across the community.	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
The Viewing Project	A programme to using art and drama as the basis for engaging people from all backgrounds in challenging topics relevant to the PEACEPLUS Programme	Countywide	€200,000	265-300
Inishowen is Ours	To support environmental regeneration of the peninsula by working with communities, and previously excluded groups, to tackle climate change, with nature-based solutions and developing biodiversity action plans.	Inishowen	€80,000	110-130
Believe We Can	Sports utilising the Donegal coast and ocean to provide Personal Development and well-being opportunity for young people from marginalised backgrounds and equality groups.	Donegal	€80,000	110-130
Belonging Across Boundaries, Stories to Connect	Festival and story-telling that may cross borders and use the medium to connect people and communities	Glenties	€80,000	110-130
Pride not Prejudice	Training in recognising and countering discrimination, racism and prejudice while creating a cross-border collaboration to share learning.	Letterkenny-Milford	€80,000	110-130
New Friends, New Relationships	A programme to organise interventions for young people (9-12yrs) at a time when they are ending their primary education and progressing to post-primary education. A series of interventions will enhance cultural understanding and learning; as well as make new friends from different backgrounds through the medium of theatre, arts, music and dance etc.	Lifford-Stranorlar	€80,000	110-130

JUNE 2025

Celebrating the recent PEACEPLUS launch events marking the beginning of a journey to bring communities together, fostering sustained cross-community and border integration and collaboration.

Diversity in Decision Making' Project, countywide project, as part of Theme 3: Building Respect for all Cultural Identities.



The project aims to support inclusive leadership, cross-community engagement, and cultural understanding in Donegal. It seeks to build a more peaceful and cohesive society by enhancing the participation of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities – including Travellers and Roma – in local decision-making and public life.

Creative Minorities' countywide project, as part of the Donegal Theme 3: Building Respect for all Cultural Identities.



The Creative Minorities project has developed an exciting programme of activities aimed at promoting inclusive leadership, cross-community engagement, and cultural understanding in Donegal.

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

PEACEPLUS



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Special EU Programmes Body
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Special EU Skemes Boadie

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