The origins of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

- Devolved powers to Northern Ireland and:
  - Strand One - Institutions in Northern Ireland
  - Strand Two - North/South Cooperation
  - Strand Three - East/West, British/Irish Council
Role of the SEUPB

• Manage cross-border EU Structural Funds in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland, and Western Scotland:
  – The EU’s Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE); and
  – The EU’s Cross-Border Programme for Territorial Cooperation (INTERREG A).

• Facilitates project participation in the INTERREG VB Transnational, and INTERREG VC Interregional Programmes.

• Advising member states on future EU Programmes.
History of the PEACE Programme

PEACE Programmes - EU’s positive response to the Northern Ireland peace process. Unique Programme across all member states.

• PEACE I (1995) – Addressed the immediate legacy of the conflict.
• PEACE II (2000) – Reinforced progress through economic development and cross-border co-operation.
• PEACE IV (2014) – Renewed focus on children and young people.
PEACE LESSONS

• PEACE is not a cash solution, people need to feel it.

• It needs repeating. It is part of a wider more complex process.

• Importance of champions.

• Impact on developing and encouraging an inter-generational, societal transformation.

• Most appropriate for changing attitudes, divisions and prejudice.

• No reconciliation without inclusion,

• Key problems relating to the post conflict PEACE regions is building relationships and changing individuals.
PEACE LESSONS

• Must have the formal political process in a post agreement arena.

• Various parallel processes from individual to institutions.

• Programmes gave validation to work that was required to promote social and political re-integration.

• Manage expectations from politicians and public about what the Programme can achieve.
Cross-Border Impact of PEACE & INTERREG

Since 2007 SEUPB has managed cross-border funding in a wide-range of sectors:

- Enterprise & Tourism
- Health & Social Care
- Public Sector Collaboration
- Rural Development
- Energy & Environment
- Roads & Transport
- Telecommunications
Impact of INTERREG Programme

- **INTERREG IA – IVA** (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: Cross-border Programme for Northern Ireland, Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland.*
Cross-Border Impact of PEACE & INTERREG

• EU Programmes have:
  
  o Improved cross-border public sector collaboration;
  
  o Developed cross-border reconciliation and understanding;
  
  o Promoted joint approaches to social and economic issues, training and human resource development, research and environmental protection;
  
  o Created a more outward looking region.
Importance of EU involvement

• The EU brought a focus on the essential role of civil society actors (especially voluntary/community groups).

• Understanding of voluntary-public partnerships informed by experience of Scandinavian states.

• EU desires to embed civil society arose from decision to include regional and non-regional actors into decision making.

• Need to bring Europe visibly closer to its citizens. Raising public awareness of socially relevant themes.
Importance of EU involvement

- Resulted in the consultative approach that led to the **partnership principle** in the first PEACE Programme.

- **Strengthen connections** between the region and the rest of Europe.

- Opportunities to **get involved** with EU neighbours.

- Learn from other **cultures**.
Importance of EU involvement

• Create better **efficiencies** and closer **cross-border working**.

• Exchange of **knowledge** and the **transfer of good practice**. Increase the capacity of the partner organisations involved.

• Create **formal** and **informal** networks which led to follow-up activity and further collaborations.
Thank you