

Peace III Partnership Workshop event
19th October 2011

**Strengthening & Sustaining Cross Border
Peace and Reconciliation Work**

Aims of the event are to:

- Provide Partnerships with the opportunity to discuss and highlight cross border reconciliation activity in their own Plans.
- Demonstrate practical examples of cross border reconciliation projects.
- Take opportunities to learn from projects presented.
- Discuss ways of sustaining cross border reconciliation work into the future.

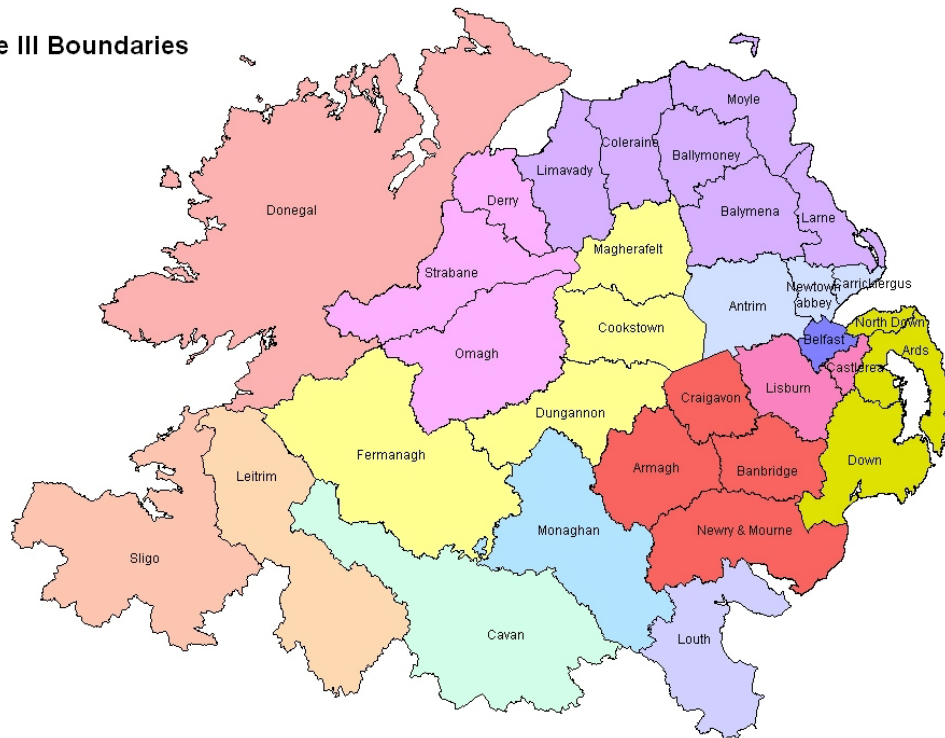
Cross Border Projects in the SW Cluster

The SW Cluster Area

The South West Peace III Partnership which comprises the four council areas of Cookstown, Dungannon and South Tyrone, Fermanagh and Magherafelt,

As can be seen from the map below, the SW Cluster (light yellow area on map) has the largest land border with the Republic of Ireland including those border counties of Monaghan (which has a border with Dungannon); Cavan and Leitrim (which border Fermanagh to the South); and Donegal (which borders Fermanagh to the West); as well as Sligo which despite not having a land border with Northern Ireland has close working relationships with part of the SW Cluster area.

Peace III Boundaries



Cross Border Theme

Cross Border working was given a high priority and a specific budget under the Phase I Action Plan. The budget was **£724,800** which amounts to 21% of total budget awarded to the cluster area.

A summary of the 19 projects funded through PEACE III are listed in the table below.

Tenders	Partner	Grant Award
Cross Border Scoping Study	RoI PEACE III Partnerships	£7,800
Cross Border Capacity Building	RoI PEACE III Partnerships	£78,700
Economic Appraisal on Council-led Cross Border Project	RoI Councils in Border region	£9,400
<u>Magherafelt Small Grants</u>		
Curragh Hall	Monaghan	35,550
Mid Ulster Women's Network	Inishowen	27,545
New Meadows	Inishowen	45,000
Drapers Truagh	Monaghan	48,975
<u>Dungannon Small Grants</u>		
Blackwater	Monaghan	95,000
Speedwell	Monaghan	49,621
<u>Fermanagh Small Grants</u>		
Sliabh Beagh	Monaghan	41,894
Youthwork Ireland	Monaghan	58,404
Adopt	Donegal	50,000
Hanging Rockers	Cavan	23,713
Westville	Donegal	49,517
Age Concern	Donegal	20,410
Portora	Donegal	33,090
Borderline Players	Donegal	46,850
The Mummers	Sligo	37,466
Early Years	Leitrim/Cavan	33,134

Tender 1 – Cross Border Scoping Study

During the initial scoping study, 51 organisations were interviewed on their current cross border activity. The groups responding were categorised according to the cross border matrix developed by Pobal and CRC.

Level	Cross Border Matrix	Proportion of Groups
Level 1	Developing Cross Border Relationships	48%
Level 2	Joint Cross Border Actions	23%
Level 3	Addressing Core Conflict Issues	8%
Level 4	Sustainable and Strategic Cross Border Development	21%

Findings

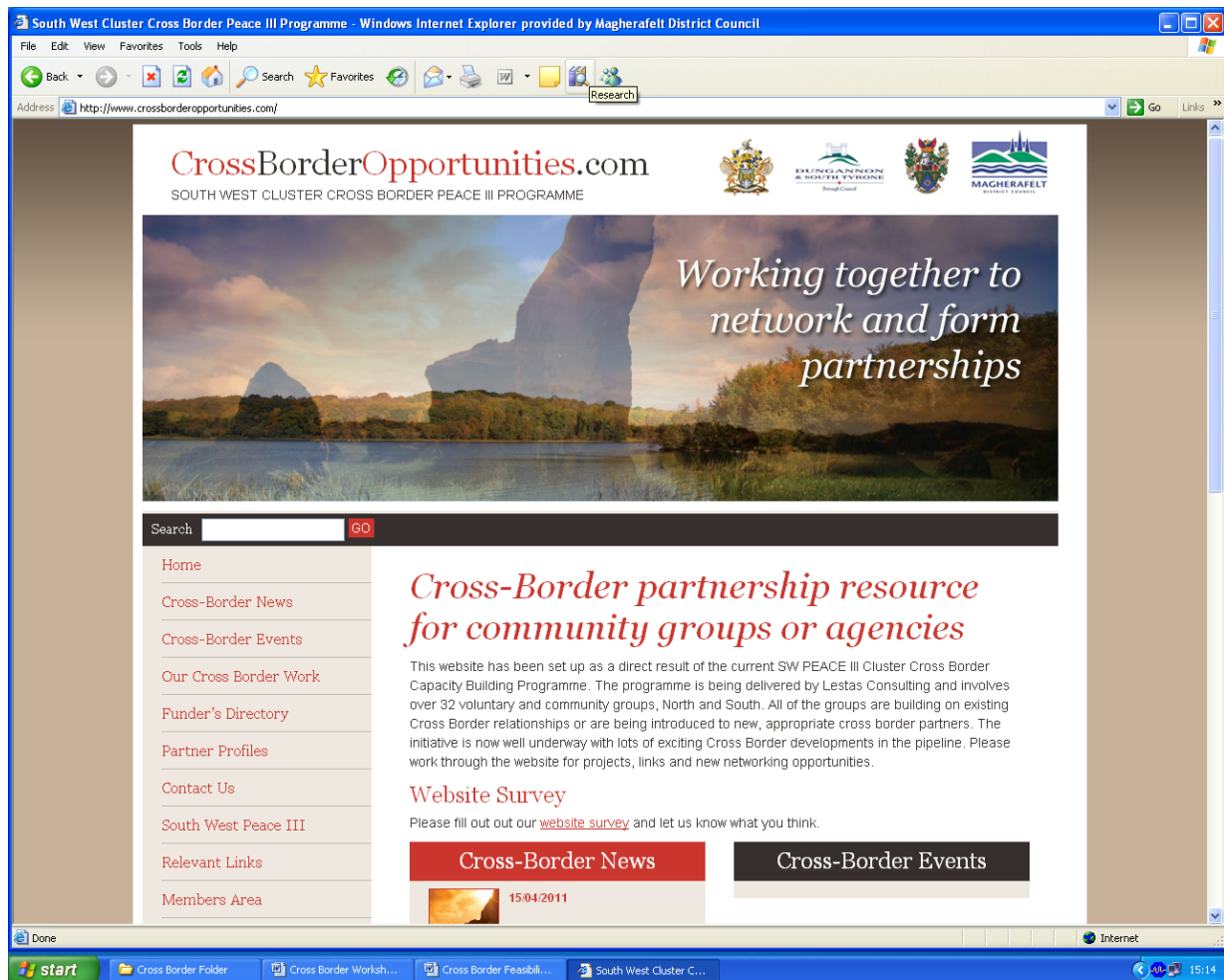
- The bulk of groups are at Level 1 and require support to develop cross border relationships.
- There are a number of strong cross border structures operating in Fermanagh and Dungannon
- Barriers to Cross Border Working
- Finding an appropriate partner
- Mentoring and a budget for travel and development work
- Funding for the significant time and resources required to develop a strong cross border partnership capable of addressing sectarianism and conflict issues

Tender 2 Cross Border Capacity Building

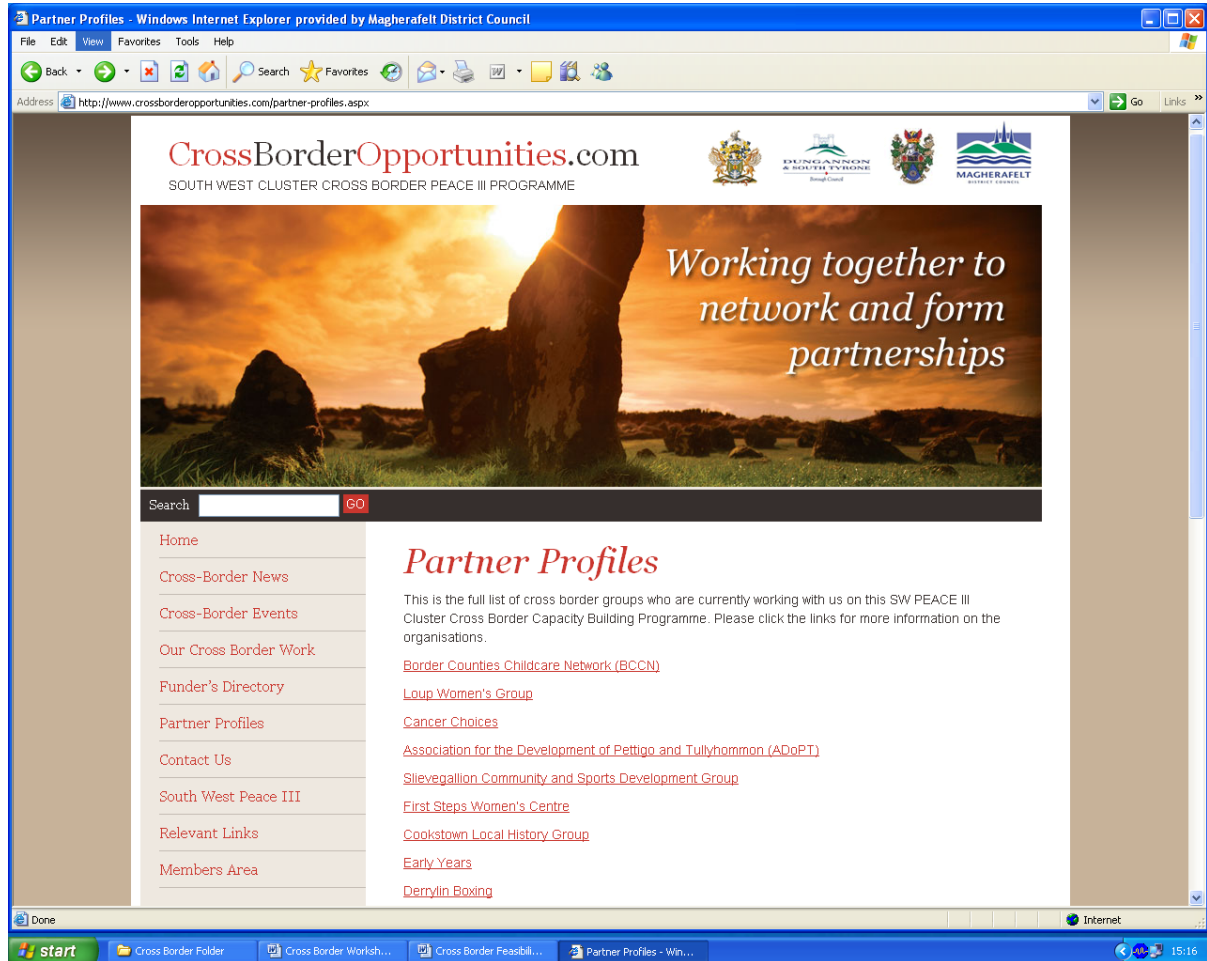
Based on the findings of the scoping study, terms of reference for a comprehensive capacity building programme was drawn up and delivered over a period of 12 months. The programme included: -

- Recruitment of 32 groups requiring support (16 in NI and 16 in RoI)
- Delivery of 4 networking workshops
- Development of a web-site to help groups find partners and generate ideas for cross border working

The Web-site can be found at www.crossborderopportunities.com.



The web-site has partner profiles for 27 groups on both sides of the border. We would like to offer the web-site as a resource for all PEACE III Partnerships in Phase II.



Tender 3 Council-led Cross Border Project

Under Phase I, the four councils in the SW Cluster were to develop a “Council-led cross border project. However the timeframe for phase I and the management time taken to establish the new cluster structures meant that this goal had to be delayed and included in the Phase II Action Plan.

However the SW Cluster did commission a consultant to consult with partner councils in RoI and complete an analysis of options to take the project forward. The recommended option was to develop a high profile initiative to prepare for the commemoration events coming up between 2012 and 2016.

A detailed Plan of Action on taking the project forward including a specification of what needed to be included within the project was also developed.

Indicative Aim of project: To build a cross border awareness raising project focused on the role of local authorities on both sides of the border, which, in association with the community and voluntary sector, can best take account of the next decade of commemorations/anniversaries and which guides them in how best to remember the past in a respectful and fair way and in a way that builds reconciliation, trust and tolerance in this cross border area. The cross border project will consider:

- What commemoration and anniversaries actually means;
- How key institutions and organisations can start to get to know more about one another, dispel the myths, fill gaps in knowledge and make connections to hidden history that promote a better understanding of each other in this cross border area;
- How to involve key institutions (Orange Order, AOH and the GAA), Councils, libraries, arts centres and museums in an integrated and bottom-up manner in the project;
- How best to support objective discussions on how the past is remembered and shape the future of relations in local areas;
- Now that myth busting has been identified as one of the big issues in developing improved relationships in local areas this project should be about exploring how understanding and trust can be built among institutions;
- Key principles/a model of engagement which should guide this type of work;
- The role that local authorities can play in the facilitation of discussions locally.

Cross Border Small Grants

A total of 16 groups secured a grant award from the SW Cluster. The grants ranged from £ to £100,000 for Blackwater Regional Partnership. There was a large range in capability and scope of projects ranging from the larger projects in Fermanagh and Dungannon that have established strong cross border organisational structures over many years and first time projects undertaken by community and voluntary groups.

Findings

- All the groups found the publicity and procurement requirements of the new PEACE III Programme extremely difficult. Exchanging currency for grant payment made it more difficult to keep track of the expenditure that had been vouched and expenditure disallowed.
- Larger organisations with a formal cross border structure in Dungannon & Fermanagh took many years to establish eg Blackwater; Sleive Beagh; Youthwork Ireland and AdoPT in Pettigo.
- No cross border projects established in Cookstown which will be a priority in the Phase II Action Plan
- Magherafelt groups developed some links in Monaghan but also Inishowen in north Donegal which reflects the sprawling character of the SW Cluster
- The Phase II Action Plan has a dedicated Facilitator to develop and mentor cross border links.
- The majority of funds will be delivered through resource allocation and partnership delivery by the Councils rather than small grants.

Case Studies

Mid Ulster Women's Network

Let's Listen – Talking Beyond Borders Project

The project aims to increase relationships by working with women from Mid Ulster area to ensure they have better understanding of each others traditions. There will also be an increase in cross border relations with women from Inishowen, Donegal. The project will effectively help women from both sides of the community and border build trust.

Outputs Delivered

- 60 women's stories recorded
- 6 full day sessions to prepare stories plus additional days editing & production
- 1000 CD's produced
- 189 attendees launch in An Grianan in Burt Donegal
- The CD has already been distributed to 20 local Womens Groups in Mid Ulster and 12 in Donegal. Working with RCN – Rural Enablers and the Rural College to provide mentoring for groups that wish to use this valuable resource

Drapers Towns Partnership & Truagh Development Association

Rural Cross Border Links

The Drapers Towns Partnership based in Draperstown and Truagh Development Association just across the border from Aughnacloy helped 8 small rural communities to develop cross border and cross community links.

Outputs Delivered

- 8 groups recruited
- 7 host nights held
- 52 travelled to London - London Plantation Companies
- 38 travelled to Dublin – Battle of the Boyne / Glasnevin Cemetery
- Round table Workshop to look at common issues – care for elderly, rural tourism, local history

Blackwater Regional Partnership

Across the Blackwater

The Blackwater Regional Partnership developed a range of activities over two years where local communities had a reason to come together and build new relationships: -.

Outputs Delivered

- 2 Bike to Blackwater events
- 2 10k runs
- Training in fly fishing for disabled young people
- Training in canoeing and water sports for young people