

Part 2 - Opportunities arising from peace

Outlines a number of areas that may stimulate discussion on opportunities arising from Peace.

Questions about your area/sector/group:

Is support necessary to:

1. Develop enhanced levels of confidence among local people to live and invest locally;
2. Tackle issues relating to conflict including prejudice, sectarianism, human rights, equality, justice etc.;
3. Develop more inclusive structures that include representation from all the different groups and interests within the community;
4. Plan and operate more co-operative ventures to improve the quality of life and environment for people within this area;
5. Develop greater diversity of groups/interests living within this community;
6. Involve people who have been excluded directly or indirectly as a result of the conflict in the planning and design of the future of your area/group;
7. Develop skills of people to enable them to access employment confident that opportunities for employment will increase in the border region;
8. Encourage potential investors to invest in derelict or bombed sites;
9. Work with other organizations in the locality to implement positive actions on an area approach;
10. Host regular events that create awareness of the rich cultural diversity within the region;
11. Ensure that all actions undertaken by our group are assessed as to the positive contribution that they make to peace building in this area;
12. Identify the target groups of the peace programme living in this community (victims/survivors- ex-prisoners-displaced people-isolated minorities) and ensure the appropriate supports to meet their needs are available;
13. Work to develop educational responses that deals with anti social, sectarian or racist political graffiti, disrespect for the National flag or colours, punishment or vigilante beatings;
14. Define and articulate what the opportunities are in your area/group/sector that relate to the new peace.

Background to the Peace II Programme

The EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland 2000-2004 (Peace II) is a distinctive European Union Structural Funds Programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation.

The delivery of the Peace II Programme is taking place in a new political and institutional context created by the implementation of the Belfast Agreement and by the new round of Structural Funds. The Programme is managed by one of the six North/South Implementation Bodies, the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The Peace II Programme is characterised by two specific objectives that contribute to the achievement of the overall aim. These are:

- **Addressing the legacy of conflict** - the Programme will address specific problems generated by the conflict in order to assist the return to a normal, peaceful and stable society;
- **Taking opportunities arising from peace** - the Programme will encourage actions which have a stake in peace and which actively help promote a stable and normal society where opportunities for development can be grasped.

ADM/CPA

(Area Development Management/Combat Poverty Agency)

Area Development Management Ltd (ADM) and the Combat Poverty Agency (CPA) are implementing bodies under the Peace II Programme, 2000 - 2004, and for this purpose operate a joint implementation structure known as ADM/CPA. ADM/CPA has responsibility for 10 measures that specifically deal with economic renewal, social inclusion, integration and reconciliation in the border counties. It also works in collaboration with the Community Foundation Northern Ireland and Co-operation Ireland in a cross border consortium to implement two further measures tackling cross border reconciliation and understanding and education, training and human resource development.



Implementing Body under the
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Peace-building
in the border
counties
prompts for discussion

Introduction

This leaflet is designed to assist those interested in participating in peace-building work and identifying the effect of the conflict. These prompts have been developed in the context of the border region to consider two main themes:

1. the legacy of the conflict
2. opportunities arising from peace.

These two themes form the core elements of what is distinctive about the new Peace Programme. Projects must demonstrate how they will meet one or other of these objectives. These prompts should be used by groups to assist them in completing the application form. They are not exhaustive but are intended as a tool to facilitate groups.

Process

The following process is proposed:

1. The group should first decide if the project being developed is about one or more of the following:
 - Geographical area
 - Sectors e.g tourism, the arts, sport, ICT
 - Target groups of the programme i.e victims of the conflict, ex-prisoners and their families, displaced persons, young people, women, older workers and other minority communities.
2. The group should then attempt to answer the relevant questions in Part 1 (Legacy of the Conflict) and/ or all of Part 2 (Opportunities arising from Peace)
3. The group should then discuss their answers by either breaking into small groups or working as one group.
4. The overall group should attempt to draw together the various responses and articulate the group response on addressing the legacy of the conflict or taking opportunities arising from peace.

It is important to remember there are no right answers. The answers relate to your area/sector/group and your understanding of the issue of reconciliation and peace-building. It is also recommended that this process takes place a couple of times and not be rushed to fill out the application form.

Prompts

The following prompts are devised to assist your groups to address the distinctiveness of your area, sector or group under the themes of addressing the legacy of the conflict or taking opportunities arising from peace.

▶ Part 1 - Legacy of conflict

- (a) – Outlines questions about your geographical area.
- (b) – Outlines questions about sectors e.g tourism, the arts, sports, ICT.
- (c) – Outlines questions for your group to consider that relates to the target groups of the new Programme. Your group may for example plan to work with the target groups of the programme i.e Victims of the conflict: ex-prisoners and their families, displaced persons, young people, women, older workers and other minority communities

(a) Questions about your **area**:

1. Does your area bear the physical scars of violence as a result of bombings?
2. Was/Is there a silence on the issue of conflict(s) in your area?
3. Is there a negative image of your area felt or portrayed?
4. Is there a lack of understanding or knowledge of different beliefs, traditions, and practices?
5. Do people feel powerless to address issues of conflict in your area?
6. Is/Was your area unable to attract inward investment because of its proximity to the border?
7. Did/Does your area suffer indirectly because it is close to areas in the southern border counties that were directly affected by the conflict?

8. Does/Did more bigotry and prejudice exist in your area?
9. Do people in your area seem comfortable to maintain the status quo but not tackle the causes of conflict?
10. Do appropriate support mechanisms for victims exist in your area?
11. Is there a lack of respect for law enforcers and other officials of the state?
12. Is there a lack of understanding or knowledge of the cultural backgrounds of minorities living in this area?
13. Were there road closures in your area because of the conflict?
14. Does apathy and cynicism dominate on the future development of the area?
15. Were buildings vandalized / burned in your area over the years of the conflict?

(b) Questions about your **sector**:

1. Did normal cross border social and economic trade suffer?
2. Is there a silence on the issue of the conflict?
3. Is debate stifled on the issue of peace-building and reconciliation?
4. Were/Are normal relations curtailed with partners in either the border counties or on a cross border basis?
5. Was the sector labeled in a non-complimentary way?
6. Were people afraid to go about their business?
7. Is there lack of awareness of the need to be truly representative of all sections of the community within your sector?
8. Do people feel powerless to address issues of conflict in your sector?
9. Does apathy and cynicism dominate on the future development of the area?
10. Did/Does your sector suffer indirectly because it is close to areas in the border region that were directly affected by the conflict?
11. Has an illegal, informal economy developed as a result of the proximity of the border and the Conflict.

(c) Questions about **group**:

1. Are there a number of displaced people living in your area (by choice or other wise)?
2. Is there a sizeable number of ex-prisoners in the community?
3. Does your area bear the physical scars of violence as a result of bombings?
4. Was/Is there a silence on the issue of conflict(s) in your area?
5. Were/Are normal relations curtailed with partners in either the border counties or on a cross border basis?
6. Was/Is the group/groups labeled in a non-complimentary way?
7. Were/Are people afraid to go about their normal day to day business?
8. Does/Did more bigotry and prejudice with regard to socially excluded groups exist?
9. Is there a lack of understanding or knowledge of the cultural backgrounds of minorities living in your area?
10. Do appropriate support mechanisms for victims exist in your area?
11. Do people in your area/group seem comfortable to maintain the status quo but not tackle the causes of conflict?
12. Is there a lack of respect for law enforcers and other officials of the state?
13. Does apathy and cynicism dominate on the future development of the area?
14. Do people feel powerless to address issues of conflict in your sector?