

# GUIDELINE 1

This is one of a series of Guidelines produced by the Consortium to serve as a resource to Local Authority led PEACE III Partnerships

## 5. MEASURING CROSS BORDER WORK

- 5.1 Pobal's "Cross Border Framework" outlines a number of stages of cross border work. Cross border peace and reconciliation work may take place at one or more of the following levels:
- Level Zero: Considering Building Cross Border Relationships
  - Level One: Developing Cross Border Relationships
  - Level Two: Joint Cross Border Actions and Co-operation
  - Level Three: Addressing Core Conflict Issues
  - Level Four: Sustainable and Strategic Cross Border Development
- Refer to the Cross Border Framework for further guidance. It can be accessed at [www.pobal.ie](http://www.pobal.ie)
- 5.2 It will be important to categorise the cross border peace and reconciliation action(s) within one of these levels.
- 5.3 It will be important to ensure there is no duplication or overlap with other peace and reconciliation work.
- 5.4 The Cross Border Lead Promoter is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the cross border action/activity and will measure and report on the outputs, results and impacts.
- 5.5 The Cross Border Lead Promoter will be responsible for paying 100% of the eligible expenditure of the cross border action, which will include expenditure in both partnership areas.
- 5.6 The Cross Border Lead Promoter is responsible for accounting and reporting the expenditure on the action/activity and declaring it as cross border.
- 5.7 The combination of cross border actions/activity and expenditure will form the basis for demonstrating compliance with the 30% guideline.

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## General Guidelines on Cross Border Peace and Reconciliation Work for Local Authority Led Peace and Reconciliation Partnerships

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Cross border peace building work in a post conflict situation is challenging due to the complexities of working in partnership and within a different jurisdiction. There are numerous sensitivities, fears, perceptions and anxieties to overcome. Developing relationships, providing leadership, negotiation and consensus will involve a certain amount of risk taking. Most importantly, to achieve a lasting impact and added value the work will require time (this is a long term process), dedicated support and resources.

- 1.1. These guidelines set out a number of parameters for meeting the suggested minimum 30% threshold for cross border actions within the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plans (2007 – 2013).
- 1.2. These guidelines are in accordance with the aims and objectives of the PEACE III Programme which are available on [www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu)
- 1.3. Partnership refers to the 'Peace and Reconciliation Partnerships' established for the purpose of administering PEACE III, Theme 1.1 funding and led by local authorities. Projects refer to actions outlined within their Peace and Reconciliation Plans.
- 1.4. These guidelines are based on Pobal's Framework for Cross Border Peace and Reconciliation work. The framework is designed to assist organisations and bodies at all levels to:
  - 1.4.1. Further understand the complex nature, levels and processes involved in undertaking cross border peace and reconciliation work;
  - 1.4.2. Identify and assess what level/stage their cross border peace and reconciliation work is currently at and to map out a potential progression route;
  - 1.4.3. Understand and articulate the reconciliation benefits in undertaking cross border work, providing practical examples which will help maximize the impact of their activity in terms of achieving peace and reconciliation outcomes.
- 1.5. This guideline recommends the process for undertaking and measuring cross border activity. Guideline 2 provides advice on best practice in cross border work whilst guideline 3 presents some practical scenarios for cross border work.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The PEACE III Operational Programme 2007 – 2013 includes cross border as a cross cutting theme and requires projects to identify how they will promote reconciliation and demonstrate outcomes in terms of good relations and understanding. SEUPB guidance has indicated that *'at least 30% of activity within each plan must be committed to cross border actions'*.

## 3. RATIONALE FOR CROSS BORDER PEACE AND RECONCILIATION WORK

- 3.1 Cross border work brings considerable added value to the overall process of peace building and reconciliation as it facilitates addressing a number of core issues in the conflict, in particular the significance and the role of the border. It also allows communities to tackle a range of problems that were a direct legacy of the conflict, including the breakdown in cross border relationships, isolation of border communities and overall social and economic decline.

- 3.2 In considering cross border peace and reconciliation work it is important to consider how best to support:

- **Communities along the Border which have been deeply affected by the Conflict** Years of conflict in Northern Ireland have led to mutual distrust and suspicion not only between communities within Northern Ireland but between communities separated by the border. This has limited the development of cross border networking and linkages in areas where mutual benefit would occur naturally. Actions/activities might be:
  - cross border networking and meaningful engagement which will facilitate the building of new, positive and sustainable relationships and contribute to the peace process;
  - actions which will be mutually beneficial to the communities separated by the border, promote commonalities and dispel the myths;
  - actions which promote understanding and respect within these communities along the border.
- **Organisations/agencies to co-operate and collaborate** in tackling issues such as sectarianism and racism and promoting shared identity and cultural diversity.
- **Cross border strategies and projects that will:**
  - add value to the Peace and Reconciliation Plan for the region;
  - make a positive contribution to peace building and reconciliation;
  - promote mutual understanding and respect;
  - promote good relations and address the issues of sectarianism and racism.
- **Shared learning and enhance the knowledge base** in cross border peace and reconciliation work and initiatives which **build the capacity of groups participating in cross border work.**

- 3.3 Cross border work may occur at different levels within the Peace and Reconciliation Plan. It may be a Partnership working with one or more other Partnerships or more frequently it may be projects or groups within a partnership area working on a cross border basis.

## 4. RECOMMENDED PROCESS FOR UNDERTAKING CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITY

- 4.1 The Partnership will need to finalise its cross border actions/activities from the Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan. This will include highlighting if the actions are at Partnership or Project level, the delivery mechanism and their strategic fit with other peace and reconciliation work. This plan should be submitted to the Pobal/CRC Consortium for support and advice.
- 4.2 For the purposes of these guidelines, taking account of the Lead Partner Principle<sup>1</sup>, the term **Cross Border Lead Promoter** will be used to denote the Partnership or Project who will take the lead on cross border actions etc within the Peace and Reconciliation Plan.
- 4.3 The Cross Border Lead Promoter is responsible for the implementation of the cross border actions. Regardless of the level of interaction i.e. Partnership or Project level, this will include:
  - i. Laying down arrangements for its relations with partners (a signed agreement is recommended);
  - ii. Guaranteeing the sound financial management of the funds (including arrangements for recovering amounts unduly paid);
  - iii. Ensuring appropriate expenditure on activities agreed (100%);
  - iv. Verification of expenditure by the partners;
  - v. Eligibility of applications from the other partnership areas;
  - vi. Arrangements to check if organisations have applied to other partnerships and how to deal with this;
  - vii. Management arrangements for the cross border action/activity;
  - viii. Currency differences.