



PEACEPLUS

Northern Ireland - Ireland

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Northern Ireland
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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



pobal

government supporting communities

**The PEACEPLUS Change Maker Funding Programme,
managed by the Special EU Programmes Body**

PEACEPLUS CHANGE MAKER FUNDING PROGRAMME

INVESTMENT AREA 6.2

Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens

CALL DOCUMENT: PEACEPLUS Programme 2021-2027

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Document Control

Version	Date	Description of Changes	Approved By	Position
1.0	21/11/2025	Final Draft	Paula Hill	Interim Director, Managing Authority

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The PEACEPLUS Programme

PEACEPLUS (the Programme) is a unique cross-border structural funds programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful, stable, and prosperous society in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. It represents the European Union’s commitment to supporting the peace process across the region, with the first PEACE Programme launched in 1995.

PEACEPLUS represents an investment of €1.144 billion in support of projects that promote peace and reconciliation and contribute to cross-border economic and territorial development. It will contribute to a more peaceful, prosperous, and stable society in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland and will leave a lasting legacy. It will build upon previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes by combining these two funding streams into one cohesive new programme.

PEACEPLUS is supported by the European Union, the UK Government, the Northern Ireland Executive, and the Irish Government. It is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). PEACEPLUS comprises six themes, encompassing 22 individual Investment Areas.

PEACEPLUS Programme Thematic Areas



This Call Document should be read in conjunction with the following:

- [PEACEPLUS Change Maker Applicant Guidance Document](#)
- [Applying for PEACEPLUS Change Maker Funding: Your Step-by-Step Guide](#)

Please consult these documents before completing the application form as they contain essential information to assist you in making the best application possible. These documents are available on the PEACEPLUS Support Portal: [PEACEPLUS Support Portal | SEUPB](#)

SECTION 2: DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTION

The PEACEPLUS Programme is making a call for applications to the Change Maker Funding Programme Investment Area 6.2: Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens. The focus under this Investment Area is to build up mutual trust, in particular by encouraging people-to-people actions (ISO 6.3).

The Programme will put in place mechanisms to finance small-scale projects or people-to-people projects that make a strong contribution to the social and civic cohesion of the cross-border region.

There will be a focus on joint actions to promote citizens' co-operation and trust-building, linking up small organisations cross-border that work directly with citizens, including community groups (for example, sports clubs, cultural organisations), schools, SMEs and organisations in the social economy sector.

This objective will strengthen trust-building activities among citizens as a founding pillar for cross-border co-operation.

It will result in an increase in the level and diversity of co-operation between citizens, communities and organisations at all levels across the Programme Area, empowered to fulfil their potential in the creation of a more peaceful and prosperous society.

Change Maker Funding Programme - Investment Area 6.2: Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens

Investment Area 6.2 will support the delivery of people-to-people projects by local/community organisations through the provision of a small grants programme. It will enable a bottom-up approach designed to empower people and organisations at a grass roots level, to make a direct contribution to peace and reconciliation within their community. It will incorporate

measures to encourage participation by organisations with limited administrative resources and will be streamlined in nature, with simplified administrative and application processes.

Funded projects will enable community groups to work on shared challenges, on **a cross-border basis**. This cross-border activity will build confidence and capacity and lead to increased contact with individuals and groups from different community, cultural, racial and political backgrounds.

Anticipated Actions: Peace and Reconciliation Projects

Funded projects will deliver small, people-to-people joint actions across borders that build social and civic cohesion by promoting citizens' co-operation and trust-building, and by formally linking cross-border organisations (e.g. community groups, schools, sports and cultural organisations, SMEs, social-economy bodies).

A joint action is considered as the action organised with the involvement of organisations from at least two participating countries. Example of actions that could be supported include:

- Citizens' co-operation: Small-scale projects to promote citizens' co-operation around specific shared challenges, e.g. climate change.
- Joint events and activities: North-South joint events and activities that develop mutual understanding and cement partnership.
- Trust building activities: for example, linking of sports clubs, cultural organisations and community groups.

The thematic focus of these projects may span a broad range of areas and groups, including, but not exhaustive:

- children and young people
- members (including former members) of the security services
- sport
- health and wellbeing
- arts and culture
- community education/ safety/ regeneration
- history and narratives of the conflict
- social innovation/enterprise
- victims and survivors
- environment and climate
- ex-prisoners
- disability

Intermediary Body

Pobal will deliver several of the key functions associated with the delivery of these Investment Areas. Pobal is an organisation in Ireland with responsibility for administering and managing government and EU funding aimed at supporting social inclusion and addressing social disadvantage. You can find out more information about Pobal at www.pobal.ie

SEUPB is delivering the Change Maker Funding Programme in collaboration with Pobal and the Support Partners (Cooperation Ireland, Rural Action and East Border Region).

Role of Support Partners

A partnership agreement is in place to assist under-represented organisations to access the programme and assist in the application process. This partnership comprises:

- Cooperation Ireland
- Rural Action
- East Border Region

These organisations operate as agents to ensure effective delivery and support for applicants.

The Support Partners play a key role in ensuring the effective delivery of the programme. Their primary responsibilities include:

- Providing guidance and support to applicants, particularly those with limited administrative capacity.
- Facilitating community engagement to ensure diverse participation.
- Acting as regional agents to promote and deliver the programme effectively.
- Ensuring inclusive access to funding opportunities for grassroots organisations.

SECTION 3: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

It is important to note that the Change Maker Funding Programme (Investment Area 6.2) will support the delivery of people-to-people projects by local community organisations. It will enable a bottom-up approach designed to empower people and organisations at a grass roots level, to make a direct contribution to peace and reconciliation within their community.

Bids may be presented in one of three configurations:

- A project composed of a Lead Partner (LP) and one (or more) budget holding Project Partner (PP).
- A project composed of a Lead Partner and one (or more) non budget holding Associated Partner (AP).
- A project composed of a single Lead Partner without a PP or AP.

Every Lead Partner and any budget holding Projects Partners will be required to upload their current constitution or governing document with the application.

Applicants are permitted to hold more than one Letter of Offer, provided that each individual project is clearly differentiated, and the details and numbers of participants can be recorded and maintained separately for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

All projects must outline demonstrable cross-border credentials in their application. It is acknowledged that this needs to be given particular thought and attention in the case of single Lead Partner projects where it may be more difficult to demonstrate.

Who is eligible to apply

- Local community groups;
- Non-government organisations (NGOs);
- Non-profit social enterprises;
- Associations, including those focused on social inclusion opportunities, ex-offenders, sports, arts, history and cultural bodies;
- Voluntary sector organisations;
- Local Traveller and Migrant organisations;
- Disability support organisations;
- Organisations representing any of the groups listed above;
- Universities, Schools, Colleges, Higher Education, Research Institutions;
- Organisations that have a presence in both Northern Ireland and Ireland are eligible to apply.

Please note the above is not an exhaustive list, other organisations may be considered eligible.

- Organisations that operate for private profit are not eligible to apply.

Programme Area

The programme area for the PEACEPLUS Programme is:

- Northern Ireland
- The border counties of Ireland (Counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, and Sligo).

This is the core programme area. The programme, however, has flexible geography beyond its administrative borders called a functional area. This allows organisations and institutions not based in the core programme area to get involved in projects by linking with partners within the core area. The benefits of such collaborations must be significant for the core programme area.

SECTION 4: THE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

PEACEPLUS Performance Framework is designed to measure and monitor the overall performance of the Programme. All activity supported as part of the PEACEPLUS Change Maker Funding Programme – Investment Area 6.2: Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens (Small Grants Programme) – must contribute to the achievement of the output and result indicators established for this part of the programme.

All citizens, communities and organisations across the programme area have a role in creating a more peaceful and prosperous society and should be empowered to fulfil this potential. Investment Area 6.2 will enable organisations of all sizes to engage in peacebuilding activities and contribute to the creation of a more cohesive society.

All applicants will be required to demonstrate how their project contributes to the output and result indicators and targets for this Investment Area.

Output and Associated Result Indicators

The EU regulations state that all Investment Areas (specific objectives) supported by PEACEPLUS must consist of the following:

- Output and result indicators for each specific objective.
- Targets for output and result indicators to be achieved by 2029.

The output and result indicators at programme level for the entire Investment Area are presented in the table below. Full Details are presented in [Annex 1](#).

Output Indicator			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target Value
RCO81	Participants in joint actions across borders	Participants	10,000
RCO87	Organisations cooperating across borders	Organisations	400

Result Indicator			
ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Target Value
PSR6.2	People with increased capacity in the field tackled by the project due to their participation in cooperation activities.	Individuals	7,500
RCR84	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion	Organisations	200

Achievement of Outputs and Results

It is expected that under this call, that a minimum of 400 organisations will be cooperating across borders by supported projects for 10,000 participations, these participants will also be engaging in joint actions across borders. As a result of this call, it is expected that 200 organisations will be co-operating across borders after project completion and 7,500 participants will have an increased capacity in the field tackled by the project due to their participation in cooperation activities.

Achievement should be recorded once activity in a project has completed. An organisation may or may not be a project partner, however, a written engagement agreement is to be held demonstrating joint engagement. Details of indicative actions within the projects, including details of events and numbers of participants should be recorded and retained.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate within their application how the proposed project has been developed on a cross-border basis, will lead to increased and sustained cross-border interaction, and how they will effectively ensure participation by and contact between communities in the proposed activities and as such make a tangible contribution to peacebuilding in the programme area.

Contribution to the Horizontal Principles

The Change Maker Applicant Guidance Document, available [here](#) provides specific information on how to ensure your project contributes to the Horizontal Principles in line with the Programme commitments.

The PEACEPLUS Programme is underpinned by three Horizontal Principles:

- Sustainable Development

- Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination
- Equality between Men and Women.

Pro-active contribution to and support of these principles should be part of every successful project funded by the Programme.

SECTION 5: APPLICATION PROCESS

A one-stage process will be in place for this call as detailed in the Change Maker Applicant Guidance Document. Full details of the assessment process, including admissibility criteria are also available in the Change Maker Applicant Guidance Document.

Applicants can be a Lead Partner on multiple projects and a partner on a different project at the same time.

Groups can hold multiple Letters of Offer at one time whilst working in partnership with other organisations. The number of applications any organisation is involved in is not prohibitive.

SECTION 6: PROJECT ASSESSMENT

Project Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed and scored against seven criteria.

1. Contribution to PEACEPLUS objectives

- How does the project advance peace and reconciliation from the bottom up (i.e. at a grass roots level)?
- How will the project contribute to the output and results provided in section 4?
- Is there a clear and credible peace component showing how the activities contribute towards building positive relationships, understanding and cohesion between communities?

2. Quality of project design

- Is the work plan clearly defined with realistic and measurable aims and activities?
- Has it been demonstrated how activities and timeline fit together to promote participation from marginalized and underrepresented groups?

3. Cross-community/cross-border co-operation

- Who will the project work with across communities/borders and how will they work together?

4. Project team and implementation

- How well does the applicant demonstrate its capacity to manage delivery, monitoring, finance, communications and administration effectively?

5. Value for money

- Does the budget represent value for money and is it proportionate to achieve the proposed results?
- Are all costs eligible, relevant, reasonable, in line with market rates and well matched to the project's outputs and intended outcomes?

6. Sustainable development

- Does the project make a positive contribution to the principle of sustainable development?

7. Equality & accessibility

- Is the project open to everyone regardless of gender, religious belief, political opinion, race, age, marital status, or sexual orientation, people with a disability and persons without, and people with dependents and persons without?

SECTION 7: CALL DETAILS, BUDGET AND CO-FINANCING RATE

Call Timeline

A total value of €20 million has been allocated to Investment Area 6.2: Maintaining and Forging Relationships between Citizens.

- This Call is for applications valued between €10,000 and €100,000 total eligible costs.
- This call operates on a continuous application process with an anticipated closure date in 2027. **You may apply at any time while the call remains open.**
- Eligible applications received are assessed together on a quarterly assessment basis. Typically, in March, June, September, and December.
- This is different from a standard call for funding where there is a single submission deadline, as it allows for ongoing applications to be assessed in batches throughout the year, while still providing applicants with a clear deadline to work towards in order to be considered in the next available assessment round.

Budget and Co-Finance Rate

Grants are available to cover 100% of the eligible costs of the project. All projects in the PEACEPLUS Programme are funded jointly by the EU and UK Government (via External Assigned Revenue), hereinafter collectively referred to as ERDF, together with match funding from the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government.

The total value of €20,000,000 available under this call consists of €16,000,000 EAR / ERDF and €4,000,000 governmental match.

Reimbursement of Funding

Funding will be reimbursed using a Simplified Cost Option (SCO) with flat-rate financing.

Applicants must submit a Draft Budget using the [Change Maker Budget Template](#) provided.

The template is a [Mandatory Attachment](#) and divides costs into:

- Direct Costs (project delivery costs),
- Direct Staff Costs (flat rate)
- Indirect Costs (flat rate).

Successful projects will receive a Letter of Offer in euro (EUR). Support is available from Support Partners to guide applicants on budget preparation and supporting document requirements that are required per the programme guidelines.

Simplified Cost Option (SCO) with Flat Rate Financing

Direct Costs

Direct Costs are the necessary delivery costs of the project and must be evidenced with a market price check in line with threshold guidance. Typical items include (non-exhaustive): facilitator/mediator services, venue hire, conference/hotel hire, participant transport, training materials, delivery-related catering, and essential programmatic equipment.

Equipment: eligible where essential to delivery and does not exceed 20% of the overall project budget.

- Equipment purchased before project approval is ineligible.
- Infrastructure and investment costs are not eligible.

Direct Staff Costs

Staff Costs are eligible for reimbursement at a flat rate of 20% of the other Direct Costs of the project. This is 20% of the other direct costs of the partner that is employing the member of staff, not 20% of the direct costs of the total project. To claim the flat rate, the Partner must confirm that they currently employ staff and provide evidence in the form of a contract of employment/work contract or an appointment letter. An outline of the roles and responsibilities relevant to the delivery of the project will also be required.

Indirect Costs

Indirect Costs are funded at 7% of Direct Costs (including the 20% flat rate for staff if applicable). Overheads and administration are covered by this flat rate. Do not include separate overhead line items in the project budget.

For detailed guidance on how to prepare a “draft” budget using the Simplified Cost Option (SCO), please refer to the Change Maker Applicant Guidance Document.

SECTION 8: SUPPORT AND CONTACT

Contact Us

For general enquiries about this call please visit the 'PEACEPLUS Support Portal' where we have provided a range of support for applicants.

On the Support Portal, applicants can access key information on submitting an application. The PEACEPLUS Support Portal can be accessed at [SEUPB PEACEPLUS Support Portal](#) (Change Maker Funding Programme).

Support Partners

Support is available to applicants from the Support Partners (Cooperation Ireland, East Border Region and Rural Action) and can be accessed by contacting:

Email changemakers@cooperationireland.org

Phone 02890 32 14 62

Groups or organisations can also register online to access support at:

<https://cooperationireland.org/projects/peace-plus-change-maker-funding-programme/>

Information about the Change Maker Funding Programme is also accessible via the Special EU Programmes Body website at: <https://www.seupb.eu/peaceplus/change-maker-funding-programme>

For support, the Co-operation Ireland PEACEPLUS Change Maker Funding Programme Team helpdesk is available by emailing; changemakers@cooperationireland.org

For general information on the Change Maker Funding Programme you can also contact Pobal by emailing peaceplus@pobal.ie or via telephone on (00353) 1 5117222.

Annex 1 Performance Framework – IA 6.2

Output Indicators

Indicator Code	RCO81
Indicator title	Participations in joint actions across borders
Measurement Unit (from fiche)	Participations
Operational definitions and concepts to apply the indicator in PEACEPLUS	<p>The indicator counts the number of participations in joint actions across borders implemented in the supported projects.</p> <p>Participations: Participations are number of persons attending a joint action across borders - e.g. citizens, volunteers, students, pupils, public officials, etc.</p> <p>Joint actions: Joint actions across borders could include, for instance, exchange activities or exchange visits organised with partners across borders. A joint action is considered as the action organised with the involvement of organisations from at least two participating countries.</p>
Achievement	Participations are counted for each joint action organised on the basis of attendance lists or other relevant means of quantification.
Any exceptions in its application and conditions of achievement (if relevant)	<p>The following should not be counted in this indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participations in public events organised in supported projects. • Participations in joint training schemes for which the training organisers intend to record the confirmed completions. • Participations in joint actions promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion. This means that the joint actions relevant for this indicator should not have the main topics linked to gender equality, equal opportunities and social exclusion. • The participations in internal project meetings of the partners should not be counted.

Result indicator related	PSR6.2: Participants with increased capacity in the field tackled by the project due to their participation in cooperation activities.
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Indicator Code	RCO87
Indicator title	Organisations cooperating across borders
Measurement Unit (from fiche)	Organisations
Operational definitions and concepts to apply the indicator in PEACEPLUS	<p>The indicator counts the organisations cooperating formally in supported projects.</p> <p>Organisations: The organisations counted in this indicator are the legal entities. The organisations supported in this specific objective include community groups (e.g. sports clubs, cultural organisations, etc.), schools, SMEs and organisations in the social economy sector.</p> <p>Cooperating formally: The organisations counted in this indicator are the legal entities including project partners and associated organizations, as mentioned in the financing agreement of the application. Organisations cooperating formally in small projects (for instance under a Small Project Fund) are also counted.</p>
Achievement	This indicator measures number of organisations cooperating across borders. For an organisation to be counted their participation must be formal and has to contribute to the project actively. ¹
Any exceptions in its application and conditions of achievement (if relevant)	Double counting: At programme level (PEACEPLUS), double counting should be avoided at the level of project partners and associated organisations.

¹ In the case of single Lead Partners (in IA 6.2) where a formal Partnership Agreement is not applicable, this can be demonstrated in the form of a written engagement agreement.

Result indicator related	RCR84: Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion.
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Result Indicators

Indicator Code	PSR6.2
Indicator title	Participants with increased capacity due to participation in cooperation activities.
Measurement Unit (from fiche)	Participants
Operational definitions and concepts to apply the indicator in PEACE PLUS	<p>This indicator measures the number of participants whose competence in the field tackled by the project has increased thanks to their participation in the joint actions delivered by the project.</p> <p>Competence/ Capacity: The increased capacity has to be related to the issue addressed by the project and not to other more cross-cutting competences or skills such as experience in cooperation or experience in project management.</p> <p>Participants self-assess that their capacity on the action's topic has increased through their involvement in the project's joint actions, which link small, cross-border organisations working directly with citizens. These collaborations focus on shared challenges, fostering mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships.</p> <p>Participations: Participations are the number of persons attending a joint action across borders - e.g. citizens, volunteers, students, pupils, public officials, etc.</p> <p>This indicator should count only participants regularly and actively involved in project activities (the fact that a participant could have their</p>

	<p>capacity increased by participating in only one project activity may be questioned).</p> <p>Joint actions: Joint actions across borders could include, for instance, exchange activities or exchange visits organised with partners across borders.</p> <p>A joint action is considered as the action organised with the involvement of organisations from at least two participating countries.</p>
Achievement	<p>To measure participants with increased capacity, the project needs gather a self-evaluation from all people actively involved in the project activities whether their capacity increased thanks to their involvement in the project's activities. This can be done through the following question: "Thanks to your participation in the project, do you consider that you are more likely to engage with individuals and groups from cross-border areas? Yes/No".</p> <p>This question can be part of a more extensive survey. Only people that answered positively to this question should be reported under the indicator.</p> <p>The number reported in PSR6.2 should be lower than the number reported for RCO81. Only people counted under RCO81 can be counted in PSR6.2.</p>
Any exceptions in its application (if relevant)	<p>The following should not be counted in this indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participations in public events organised in supported projects. • Participations in joint training schemes for which the training organisers intend to record the confirmed completions. • Participations in joint actions promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and social inclusion. This means that the joint actions relevant for this indicator should not have the main topics linked to gender equality, equal opportunities and social exclusion. • The participations in internal project meetings of the partners should not be counted.

Output indicator related	RCO81: Participations in joint actions across borders
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Indicator Code	RCR84
Indicator title	Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion.
Measurement Unit (from fiche)	Organisations
Operational definitions and concepts to apply the indicator in PEACE PLUS	<p>The indicator counts the organisations cooperating across borders after the completion of the supported projects.</p> <p>Organisations: The organisations are legal entities involved in project implementation, counted within RCO87. The organisations supported in this specific objective include (but not limited to) community groups (e.g. sports clubs, cultural organisation, etc.), schools, SMEs and organisations in the social economy sector.</p> <p>Cooperation: The cooperation concept should be interpreted as having a statement that the entities have a formal agreement to continue cooperation, after the end of the supported project. The cooperation agreements may be established during the implementation of the project or within one year after the project completion. The sustained cooperation does not have to cover the same topic as addressed by the completed project.</p>
Achievement	Cooperation between organisations will be measured through cooperation agreements signed between organisations involved in the project implementation. The cooperation document should be signed at least by two organisations participating in the project, one on each side of the border. The cross-border distribution of the organisations is mandatory regardless of the number of organisations.

Any exceptions in its application (if relevant)	At programme level (PEACEPLUS), double counting should be avoided at the level of project partners and associated organisations. The value reported for RCR84 can be equal to or lower than the value of RCO87, but not higher.
Output indicator related	RCO87: Organisations cooperating across borders

Annex 2: List of Mandatory Attachments

Applicants must upload the following documents with their application form. Items marked with an asterisk (*) have templates available on the Change Maker Funding page of the PEACEPLUS Support Portal.

- Constitution of Lead Partner and any budget holding Project Partner(s)
- Project Budget Template* (along with the supporting documentation detailed in Section 6.2 of the Change Maker Applicant Guidance Document)
- Authorisation Form* (Lead Partner only)
- Relocation and Transfer of Productive Activity Declaration Form(s)* (Lead Partner and Project Partners)

Please ensure you have uploaded all the listed documents prior to submitting your application form on Jems. You can find the Mandatory Attachments [here](#).