

LETTER OF OFFER

19th December 2024
Mr John Walsh
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS
Antrim

Project Name: Belfast Local Community PEACE Action Plan

Application Reference Number: PP00353

Dear Mr Walsh

1. Award and description of project

I am pleased to inform you that the PEACEPLUS Steering Committee agreed on 12th August 2024 to offer the above project the following grant aid;

Grant of **up to a maximum of** €17,437,277.00 (the “**Grant**”) to be incurred and defrayed by 31st December 2027. This is inclusive of €13,949,821.60 ERDF/UK ERDF Equivalent and €3,487,455.40 governmental match provided by the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive.

This grant is awarded under Theme 1, Investment Area 1.1 Co-designed Local PEACEPLUS Action Plans (Specific Objective ISO4.1) to Belfast City Council as Lead Partner for the following project and approved Output and Result Indicators.

The project as set out in the latest approved version of the application form (the “**Project**”)

The approved **Output and Result Indicators:**

Output Indicators (Programme Level)			
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value

PSO1.1	Co-designed PEACEPLUS Action Plans implemented	PEACEPLUS Action Plan	1
Result Indicators			
ID	Indicator	Measurement Unit	Target Value
PSR1.1	People from different communities engaged jointly in the implementation of local PEACEPLUS action plans	People	17,437

The following is a list of all project partners:

- Belfast City Council as Lead Partner

2. Budget and Conditions of Funding

In the event that the Lead Partner accepts the Grant offer detailed in this Letter of Offer any payment claim forms shall provide details of Project expenditure based on grant budget (the “Budget”) below;

Funding Sources	Value (€)
ERDF/UK ERDF Equivalent	
Total	€13,949,821.60
Intervention rate (% ERDF/UK ERDF Equivalent)	80%
Match Funding	
Governmental Match Provided by the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive	€3,487,455.40
Cash Contribution (Partner Supplied/other grant)	N/A
Revenue Generated (Participant fees/Income)	N/A
Total	€17,437,277.00

Simplified Cost Option Key:	
Office & Administration costs - 15% flat rate of eligible direct staff	The flat rate may be used to cover all eligible office and administration costs (indirect costs) of the project - Regulation (EU) No 2021/1059, Article 40 (1) and (2).
Travel & Accommodation costs for project staff - 7% flat rate of eligible direct staff	The flat rate may be used to cover all eligible Travel and Accommodation costs (direct staff) of the project - Regulation (EU) No 2021/1059, Article 41 (5).
€100,000 Preparation Lump Sum	The lump sum is intended to cover all costs which relate to the preparation phase of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan incurred between the 1st January 2021 and the application submission date. Infrastructure and Investment costs are not an eligible cost in the preparation of the PEACEPLUS Action Plan. The lump sum has been established in line with Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 Article 53 (3).

It is conditional that Project implementation and expenditure is in accordance with this Letter of Offer, the Programme Manual and Standard Conditions of Grant (as amended from time to time). The most up to date versions of these documents are available on the SEUPB website. It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to ensure that they are compliant with these.

- a. This Letter of Offer is to be read alongside the Standard Conditions of Grant, Data Sharing Agreement, Programme Manual and the latest approved version of the Application Form. Words and expressions defined in the Standard Conditions of Grant and Programme Manual have the same meaning in this Letter of Offer.
- b. Any changes to the Project submitted, for instance to the Budget, activities, Output or Results Indicators, required by the Steering Committee, will have been communicated to the Lead Partner in the Notification of Approval.
- c. The Grant can only be used for the approved purposes of the Project to achieve the agreed Outputs and Result Indicators.
- d. Any change to this Letter of Offer must be agreed in writing with SEUPB prior to expenditure being incurred.
- e. If you do not spend all the funding on the delivery of the Project, the unspent balance will not be available to the Project Partners to utilise.
- f. This Letter of Offer is conditional upon the Lead Partner entering into a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA), with the SEUPB in relation to any personal data shared between the parties.
- g. It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to inform Project Partners and Project End Beneficiaries about the purposes of processing of their personal data, how their data is handled, whom it may be shared with and their rights as data subjects in accordance with any applicable Privacy Notice(s) and relevant terms and conditions.
- h. Where data is shared between Lead Partners and Project Partners and/or End Beneficiaries, the sharing of information must be in full compliance with applicable data protection laws. Data Sharing Agreements between these parties are recommended.
- i. By signing and returning this Letter of Offer, the Lead Partner understands, acknowledges and agrees that all publicity and marketing materials shared with SEUPB may be shared onward with third parties and/or made publicly available. It is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to inform Project Partners and Project End Beneficiaries about this collection and processing. A copy of the (JEMS) Privacy Notice and, where applicable, the Child and Young Person Privacy Notice, should be provided to all data subjects.

- j. Information submitted onto JEMS and any other monitoring and evaluation tool(s) by a Project Partner may be transferred and subsequently stored on the PEACE Programmes Learning Platform for research and archiving in the public interest.
- k. Payments cannot be made to Project Partners until the receipt by SEUPB of a Partnership Agreement acceptable to SEUPB is signed by all Project Partners.

3. Project Lifetime

The period of assistance is for 48 months starting on 1st January 2024 (“Project Lifetime”).

The Project end date is 31st December 2027, after which time any costs not defrayed will be deemed to be ineligible for reimbursement. Your activity should cease in advance of this date to ensure the final claim for expenditure has been certified by the Controller and all associated costs have been incurred by the final date of the Project Lifetime.

All documentation related to the administration of the Project including but not limited to supporting documents regarding Output and Result indicators, expenditure and audit must be retained and kept available in accordance with the terms of the Programme Manual.

The Project Lifetime may be only extended with the prior written agreement of SEUPB.

4. Conditions & Recommendations Specific to the Project

The Steering Committee has specified additional conditions (the “Additional Conditions”) for pre-commencement and during the implementation of the Project. These are conditions that the project must comply with in order to receive the Grant in full. The conditions are as follows:

Pre-commencement conditions

- (1) A state aid assessment is to be completed by the Lead Partner on behalf of the project and reviewed by SEUPB before the Letter of Offer is issued.

Project implementation conditions

- (1) JEMS work plans must be amended to the satisfaction of SEUPB.
- (2) Applicant to provide a breakdown of all travel and accommodation costs, any equipment/fixtures (to include detail and confirmation of match funded elements) and detail lump sum allocation.
- (3) Verification/Controller arrangements to be in line with SEUPB requirements. This must be in place before financial claims are submitted on the Jems system.

- (4) The community background of each of the Cohorts of participants should be confirmed and not vary from that set out in the application and detailed on Jems. If a variation is necessary, it will be subject to the agreement of SEUPB.
- (5) Progress against outputs and results targets will be considered at the 3-year point of implementation, this will determine if a break clause is enacted.

The Programme has also identified a series of recommendations for pre-commencement and during implementation of the Project. While not binding conditions of funding, Project Partners are requested to implement these recommendations where it is possible to do so within the existing scope and budget of the Project. The recommendations are as follows:

(a) The PEACEPLUS Programme has been designed to address issues related to our past history. Common traits that occur in post-conflict societies include aggressive and violent outbursts, lack of empathy, emotional distance, depression, addiction and limited life opportunities. We have also been influenced by the evidence associated with intergenerational trauma and the affect it can have on young people who were born long after the conflict/violence ended. These young people still bear the scars of their parents' and grandparents' experience and present with related trauma. Traumatized communities and individuals will not have all the necessary parenting skills to break the cycle of trauma without interventions and assistance.

All PEACEPLUS funded projects are strongly recommended to consider what they can do to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls both within their project (activity) and how they can ensure awareness within the project partnership (staff). This may include: campaigning and awareness raising; specific actions to ensure women and girls feel safe everywhere; championing healthy, respectful relationships in the workplace; challenging attitudes, behaviours and social norms where they are unacceptable. You will find more information and some simple activities you can undertake in the attached links (<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/topics/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls>). In Ireland, please refer to the [Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence](#). Further information can be found [here](#).

As part of PEACEPLUS monitoring, where the projects have addressed the priority of ending of gender-based violence, the project will be asked to record actions, spend and location of these activities.

(b) Violence in the home, in many cases, can be linked to traumatic experiences from the past. Such traumatic instances can also be linked to the development of addiction and mental health issues. PEACEPLUS aims to support young people at an early stage, when they are, for example, at the point of possibly sofa surfing, and so help divert that young person from ending up in a state of homelessness. Funded projects are strongly recommended to consider, where relevant if there are any or part of their project activities and actions, that could support those at risk of homelessness, or have an early intervention which may prevent a person becoming homeless.

Successful applicants will, as part of PEACEPLUS monitoring, be asked to record actions, spend and location of any projects which address prevention of Homelessness.

(c) Affordable and accessible Childcare is often a barrier to employment and progression. The young people targeted by the PEACEPLUS programme are categorised as some of the most disadvantaged in our communities and therefore are most lacking in support. PEACEPLUS will help remove barriers to employment, particularly in the skills development investment area, to ensure that those young people have equality of opportunity in accessing training which may lead on to employment and better life opportunities. PEACEPLUS funded projects are strongly recommended to consider, where relevant to the funded action, what positive actions they can take to support the childcare needs of their PEACEPLUS Programme participants.

Successful applicants will, as part of PEACEPLUS monitoring, be asked to record actions, spend and location of any projects which address the priority of Childcare.

(d) Over the life of the programme, further priority areas for support may emerge and we reserve the right to request your assistance in addressing those priorities.

5. Grant Contract

You will find with this Letter of Offer, the following:

Annex A	Form of Acceptance
Annex B	Request for bank details form
Annex C	Standard Conditions of Grant
Annex D	Data Sharing Agreement

The Standard Conditions of Grant and the Programme Manual are available on the SEUPB Website.

This Letter of Offer, the Standard Conditions of Grant (Annex C), the Data Sharing Agreement (Annex D), the Programme Manual and the latest approved version of the Application Form constitute the Grant Contract.

6. Bank Details

SEUPB will make payments into a dedicated bank account, unless otherwise agreed. Therefore, you need to open a **separate bank** account for the receipt of the Grant. Please **return the attached bank details form**, or else seek authorisation for a cost centre. Please see the section Bank Account of the Standard Conditions of Grant for more detail of this requirement.

7. Accepting the Letter of Offer and Standard Conditions of Grant

The Grant offer is made conditional upon you, the Lead Partner, adhering to our Standard Conditions of Grant and entering into the Data Sharing Agreement. If you accept this Letter of Offer, you will also be agreeing to abide by the Standard Conditions of Grant, the terms of Data Sharing Agreement and to abide by the Programme Manual. This Letter of Offer together with the Standard Conditions of Grant, the Data Sharing Agreement, Programme Manual and latest approved version of the Application Form will (on acceptance as evidenced by your return of the completed Form of Acceptance) create the legally binding Grant Contract and you should read all documents carefully before accepting the Grant offer.

If you agree to accept our offer you should return the Form of Acceptance, along with the signed Data Sharing Agreement to SEUPB at: js.peaceplus@seupb.eu; together with the Bank Details Form which is attached as ANNEX B.

You must sign and return the Form of Acceptance and the Data Sharing Agreement within 28 days of the date of issue of the letter otherwise this offer of the Grant will expire unless otherwise agreed by SEUPB.

If there is anything you are unsure about regarding this Letter of Offer, the Standard Conditions of Grant, the Data Sharing Agreement or the Programme Manual, please contact SEUPB at your earliest convenience.

8. Communications

We understand that you will be keen to share the news of your funding award with your stakeholders as soon as possible, however, we would ask that you contact the SEUPB communications team before making any public announcements in order to discuss your communications plan and ensure that all public communications comply with your obligations under the Grant Contract. Please email communications@seupb.eu

SEUPB reserves the right to co-ordinate all public relations/media announcement activity relating to this Letter of Offer. This includes the content, timing and distribution of any Grant offer made. No Grant offer announcement can be made by the Lead Partner or any other party without the prior agreement of the SEUPB.

Yours sincerely



Gina McIntyre
Chief Executive

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