

File Ref and link to

Lead topic: EU/North South Programmes	Sub-topic: Brexit	Contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gearoid O’Keeffe Ext. 5004• Siobhan O’Higgins Ext. 5722
--	-----------------------------	--

FAST FACTS

Irish UK Cooperation Programmes

Ireland and the UK are currently partners in three EU-funded cross-border Cooperation Programmes with a total value of €650 million over the period 2014-2020:

- PEACE Programme - €269 million;
- Ireland/Northern Ireland/Scotland INTERREG Programme - €282 million;
- Ireland/Wales Programme - €99 million.

These programmes are 85% funded by the EU through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the European Union's Cohesion Policy.

The Irish Government remains firmly committed to the **successful implementation of the programmes and to successor programmes post-2020.**

The programmes are important **drivers of regional development** in a cross-border context. Through EU-funded cooperation, a range of Departments and agencies, North and South, have engaged in and benefited from a variety of cross-border and cross-community projects.

Support for the two programmes from the European Regional Development Fund is not only an important source of funding but also a key element of the **European Union’s continuing commitment to the process of peace building and reconciliation** in the region over the last quarter of a century.

The fact of the European Union being the source of funding has also allowed the programmes to provide **support for projects which might otherwise have not been funded.**

Moreover, future programmes would not only help to **mitigate the impact of Brexit** in the border region but also show that cooperation involving Ireland, the UK and the EU can continue post-Brexit.

The approach being adopted comprises three elements:

Short term: secure the programmes and give programme beneficiaries the confidence they need to proceed with projects. Achieved last October through agreement on a safeguard clause to Brexit-proof funding agreements;

Medium term: implement necessary adjustments to the programmes and ensure successful implementation out to 2020, through a period during which the UK is expected to leave the EU.

Long term: secure agreement for successor programmes post-2020. The regulatory basis for EU programmes with third countries already exists, and the programmes are well regarded in Ireland, the UK and more generally in the EU.