

Welcome



“

As chair of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership, I am delighted to welcome you to the 1st edition of the PEACEPLUS Newsletter. The newsletter is a means to providing our residents and target groups with up-to-date information on the implementation of the Sligo PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan, the range of programmes being delivered and the opportunities that exist for participation.

The PEACEPLUS Partnership is confident that the projects which are detailed in the plan, and included in the Newsletter, will build and empower resilient, thriving and safe communities; increase their capacity for development; and make a lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation long after the funding ends.

Councillor Dónal Gilroy
Chair of PEACEPLUS Partnership



“

We have all benefited from peace in Northern Ireland and The PEACEPLUS Programme now provides County Sligo with a further opportunity to continue the work of peace building, joining with people North and South in continuing to contribute to a peaceful region and island.

I would like to express my thanks to the PEACEPLUS Funders, the SEUPB, for the financial support which allows us to lead on peacebuilding initiatives that are relevant to the County and where they will have the greatest impact at local level.

I would encourage everyone to take part in the programme and I look forward to the implementation stage and seeing first-hand the positive impacts and benefits gained through this PEACEPLUS Funding.

Councillor Declan Bree
Cathaoirleach of Sligo County Council

Introduction

Sligo County Council has been allocated €3,603,788 via the new PEACEPLUS programme under thematic area 1.1, Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities. To secure this funding, the council has developed a PEACEPLUS Co-designed Local community Peace Action Plan which includes 15 projects across three core themes as follows:

- Local Community Regeneration and Transformation – 4 No. capital investment projects countywide, empowering communities
- Thriving and Peaceful Communities – 8 No. capacity building projects county wide to build positive relations
- Celebrating Culture and Diversity - 3 No. projects to reimagine communities.

The PEACEPLUS Action Plan for County Sligo was developed through a collaborative and inclusive process overseen by Sligo County Council.



Sligo County Council initiated the establishment of the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board - a subcommittee of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to supervise the development and implementation of the PEACEPLUS Plan for County Sligo. This process involved nominations from the LCDC's four pillars:



Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership

Pillar 1 - Elected Members	Pillar 2 - Relevant Statutory Bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr. Thomas Healy, Sligo-Drumcliff• Cllr. Anne Higgins, Sligo-Strandhill• Cllr. Dónal Gilroy, Sligo-Drumcliff• Cllr. Gerard Mullaney, Ballymote-Tubbercurry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patricia Garland, Health Service Executive• Trevor Sweetman, Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education Training Board• Joe Rynn, TUSLA/CYPSC (Youth & Social Services)• Brian Flynn, Sligo County Council Executive Member
Pillar 3 - Social Partners - Geographic, Community Representatives, Environment, Civic Society	Pillar 4 - Social Partners - PEACEPLUS Target groups 75/underrepresented groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aidan Doyle, Sligo Chamber (Business)• Kathleen Henry, Irish Farmers Association• Pat Fallon, ICTU (Trade Unions)• Fintan Kennedy/John Feerick, Sligo LEADER	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liam Boland, Ballymote GAA (Sport/Community)• Chris McManus, Tus Nua (Conflict Legacy/Community)• Tara Dolan Mbongue, Aremoja Women's Group (Migrant Women/ Community)• Trish Fallon, Havin a Laugh (Mental Health/Community)

The co-design approach involved collaboration between the PEACEPLUS Partnership and the community, emphasising inclusivity.



Theme 1: Local Community Regeneration and Transformation - 4 No. Capital investment Projects

Project Title	Description	Resources/Partners
Land of Art's Desire:	Regeneration of dockside building to provide accessible creative space for young people, thereby increasing opportunities, interaction and cultural and diversity understanding.	Branching Out CLG
PAZMÁS – The Armada Across Seas and Borders	Installation of Augmented/Virtual Reality Armada exhibit in Grange and collaborative installation of uniform signage for visitor trail in the PEACEPLUS region. Supported by cross-community exchange projects.	Spanish Armada Ireland, collaboration with Local Authorities across PEACEPLUS region.
Celtic Connections	Restoration and transformation of a conservation building in Ballymote to create the Brother Walfrid Museum. Focus for social justice, good citizenship and heritage.	Ballymote Community Council
Dromore West Digiversal	Supporting inclusivity and universal access in Dromore West through: multi-sensory room for disabled people and intergenerational use and; reconfiguration of the main public space to maximise integration activities.	Dromore West Council Committee



Theme 2: Thriving and Peaceful Communities – 8 No. capacity building projects county wide to build positive relations.

Project Title	Description	Resources/Partners
The GFA for Gen Z: Project Lighthouse	Enhanced understanding of what the Good Friday Agreement means to people born around and since 1998. Project delivered on a cross-border and cross-community basis	Associate Partner on Project: Hawks Well Theatre, Sligo
Cross- Border Friendship Tournament	Cross-border, cross-community young people's soccer tournament taking place across Sligo over 2 years, including good relations and diversity workshops and capacity for volunteers	Youth soccer organisations in PEACEPLUS Region
Men's Sheds Exchange	Cross-border and cross-community interaction, enhanced understanding and sustainable relationships.	Men's Shed groups on both sides of the border.
Tuning into Social Inclusion	Cross-border and cross-community interaction between young people through music.	Associate Partner on Project: Music Generation - Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education Training Board
Digital PEACEPLUS	Facilitation of digital skills in youth with projects, including disabled and older people, culminating in digital showcase exhibits exploring diversity and shared experience.	Youth, Active Age and community groups.
A Biodiverse Year in Nature	Supporting the understanding of local biodiversity and preservation of same through 2-year immersion across the seasons and Biodiversity Train and Trainer course.	Local and Cross-border communities. Agricultural, forestry, marine and education sector. Sligo County Council.

We Can Fix It	Providing practical social inclusion through supporting the circular economy and principles of sustainability.	Local communities and expert advice
Supporting Local	Tailored community capacity-building supporting social inclusion and investment under Sligo PEACEPLUS. Opportunities for mutual cross-border exchange looking at models of best-practice.	Participants from other Sligo PEACEPLUS Projects.

Theme 3: Celebrating Culture and Diversity - 3 No. projects to reimagine communities

Project Title	Description	Resources/Partners
Human Stories Unveiled	Challenge and reduce prejudice and bias and foster understanding and inclusion through the telling and exposition of stories through many mediums	Facilitation to gather, manage, support and direct participants in mediums used involving community engagement and expert partners.
The Sligo World Festival of Everything	Instil confidence in sharing and interacting with different modes of cultural expression. Promote parity of esteem and understanding of others within communities and beyond	Community and facilitating partners to manage projects. Buy-in of festivals and events to support exposition
Shore to Shore History and Heritage	Cross-border, cross-community, and culturally diverse shared understanding of history – our own, the others' and where heritage converges	Communities within the PEACEPLUS region. Access to historical resources



THE RED DRESS

EXHIBITION:

Irish First for Sligo PEACEPLUS

THE RED DRESS

In a landmark moment for Sligo and Ireland, The Red Dress Embroidery Project will make its first visit to Ireland as part of the launch celebrations for the Sligo PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan. It will be shown at City Hall, Sligo between from Monday May 12th to Thursday May 15th.



**MAY 12TH -
15TH 2025**

**CITY HALL,
QUAY STREET,
SLIGO**



The award-winning Red Dress comprises 87 panels embroidered over 14 years by 380 people from 51 countries, including Ireland. Artist, Kirstie McLeod initially sought to generate a dialogue of identity through embroidery, uniting people globally across borders and boundaries with the concept.

As it evolved, however, The Red Dress became a platform for self-expression and an opportunity for marginalised voices to be amplified, thus prompting conversations on important and frequently uncomfortable issues: a perfect match for the outcomes of Sligo PEACEPLUS Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plan.





Sligo County Council Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

PEACEPLUS is a Cross-Border funding Programme supported by the European Union, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, The Government of Ireland, and the Northern Ireland administration

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan or to register your interest in attending an engagement event, please contact the PEACEPLUS Manager at Sligo County Council on 071 9111354 or via e-mail at peace@sligococo.ie

This project is supported by PEACEPLUS a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

Sligo.