

cc. Mr Layberry
Mr McCusker

From: Miss L Wilson, European Division, DFP

Date: 4 June 1996

To: Ms P McVeigh, DOE
Mr D Harley, DHSS
Mr G McKeown, DED
Mr R McMinnis, DED
Mr B Gamble, T&EA

Sp. Bdy Gamble

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PUBLIC BODIES

1. A meeting has now been arranged with the Department of Foreign Affairs and other interested Departments to discuss the Co-operation between Public Bodies Measure. The meeting will take place on 12 June in Dublin.
2. I am enclosing for your information a set of draft guidelines (ERDF only at this stage) which the ROI have prepared and sent to us for comment. This approach may cause us some problems so, in preparation for that meeting, I would be grateful if you could let me have the following details about the applications which you have already received under these Measures:-
 - (i) number and value of applications received;
 - (ii) number and value of applications formally approved and for which Letters of Offer have issued;
 - (iii) number and value of applications approved in principle; and
 - (iv) number and value of applications which you are processing or working up with a view to supporting.
3. It would be helpful if you could let me have these details by noon on 10 June so that we know precisely where we stand with regard to these Measures before we meet our counterparts from the ROI.
4. Many thanks for your co-operation. Please telephone me if you need anything else.

Linda Wilson

LINDA WILSON

PP-LW-9514

Guidance Notes for Applicants

Sub-Programme 3: Cross-Border Development

Measure 3 (A) Cooperation between Public Bodies of the Special Programme for Peace and Reconciliation

(These Notes should be read together with the General Guidelines for the peace programme)

1. Measure Objectives and Rationale

The objectives of this Measure are to release further synergies in the provision of public services through co-operation between public bodies leading to an improvement of services in the interests of the border communities. The Measure seeks to encourage and support cooperation and the adoption of co-ordinated approaches by public bodies to common problems in the eligible areas of Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland which are of significant importance in both social and economic terms. Therefore, projects submitted for assistance should either initiate, or develop cooperation North and South to a significant new extent. ✓

2. Funds available

Measure 3 (A) has provision for a total expenditure of 10,834 MECU (5,417 MECU each North and South). The EU funding element will derive from the Regional Fund.

3. Potential project areas

The Special Programme lists on an indicative basis the types of actions which might be funded. These include the following:-

- co-operative arrangements between agencies North and South on environmental research and development;
- co-operative arrangements between Health Boards and Health and Personal Social Services Agencies;
- co-operative arrangements between local authorities;
- h - integrated marketing of the eligible area; ✓
- co-operative arrangements between education and training providers.

4. Nature of applicants

Applicants and delivery mechanisms are envisaged to be Government Departments, statutorily established public bodies and other relevant bodies providing a public service as determined by both Governments. ✓

5. Financial Support Available

Support is provided in the form of a discretionary grant. Projects may attract aid of up to a maximum of 75%. ✓

6. Project selection criteria

Projects submitted for consideration under this Measure should lead to increased cooperation and improvement in the provision of services. In their consideration of projects, the joint Programme Managers will require clear evidence that projects submitted are jointly planned and intended to be jointly executed by two or more public bodies (unless operated by mutual agreement under licence/agent basis by one such body) and are capable of joint funding, North and South. ✓

Preferential regard will be given to projects which are likely to promote sustainable cooperation and interdependence and are not covered by existing European Union or other Programmes. ✓

In evaluating projects the Programme Managers will take account of:

- (i) Programme Objectives - projects must demonstrate that they contribute to the strategic objectives of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme. ✓
- (ii) Measure Objectives - projects must demonstrate that they contribute to the objectives of the Measure. ✓
- (iii) The extent to which the project initiates or develops co-operation between public bodies. This will be the primary factor taken into account in deciding on applications. ✓
- (iii) Additionality - that funding is not being diverted elsewhere or activity would not otherwise be undertaken. ✓
- (iv) Viability - evidence that the resources and expertise needed to bring the project to fruition with grant assistance are available from either internal sources and/or external sources. ✓
- (viii) Project management - evidence that the project will be effectively managed. ✓

7. Application Procedure

This measure is being managed for Northern Ireland by the Department of Finance and Personnel and in Ireland by the Department of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Government Departments directly responsible. The project applications will be evaluated taking full account of the views of all Departments concerned

especially where projects from non-Departmental bodies are concerned. Applications should be jointly agreed by the Public Bodies in the two jurisdictions and completed application forms submitted to the parent Central Government Department for forwarding to the programme managers.

The Programme managers are as follows:

Mr Máirtín Ó Fainín
Peace Programme
Anglo-Irish Section
86 St Stephens Green
Department of Foreign Affairs
Dublin 2

Miss Linda Wilson
Mr ~~Jack~~ Layberry
Peace Programme
Department of Finance and
personnel
~~Parliament Buildings~~ *11-13 Bloombfield*
~~Stormont~~ *Her*
Belfast BT4 3SW

Applications should be submitted before (September 15) and the outcome of the evaluation process will be made known by (mid December 1996).

The decision of the Programme Managers is final.

8. Project Approval

- (i) **LETTER OF OFFER:** If the project application is successful, the Programme Managers will issue a formal joint letter of offer specifying the amount of support and any conditions which may apply.
- (ii) **CLAIMS:** Payment arrangements will be those normally applied to ERDF grants by the appropriate government departments. ✓
- (iii) **PROGRESS Reports:** As required by Parent Government Departments who will also be required to keep the programme managers informed
- (iv) **POST COMPLETION EVALUATION:** As required by Parent Government Department in consultation with the Programme Managers.
In addition, the European Commission will be carrying out its own monitoring and evaluation of the Special Programme and Groups receiving assistance under the Programme may be required to co-operate with the European Commission in such evaluation.