



co-operationireland
the peace-building charity

Exchanges Programme

Funding Criteria for
Cross-Border Exchanges



www.cooperationireland.org

Co-operation Ireland's Statement of Intent

“To advance mutual understanding and respect by promoting practical co-operation between the people of Northern Ireland and of the Republic of Ireland”

Exchanges Programme

The Exchanges Programme engages people in a process that enhances their understanding of themselves and others, enabling them to take their place in the development of fair and equitable societies in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland.

The Programme facilitates and supports links between groups in the youth and community sectors in these areas. Through the medium of reciprocal exchanges and joint project activity, the Programme aims to develop positive and sustainable relationships between groups of differing identities. We seek to help bring about equality and inclusion through our activities.

By promoting interaction, dialogue and the sharing of practice on cultural, educational and socio-economic issues, groups are enabled to develop programmes of mutual interest which will lead to a greater understanding of, and respect for, diversity.

Applying for Funding

The Exchanges Programme supports groups from Northern Ireland and from the Republic of Ireland who are applying jointly for funding to develop and participate in a cross-border project.

The Exchanges Programme also supports groups from within Northern Ireland who are engaged in cross community work with a view to developing cross-border work in the near future. Projects involving only groups from Northern Ireland must be cross community and must develop into a cross-border project after one year's funding.

Applications must demonstrate how the exchange project will address issues of diversity and co-operation in the context of building reconciliation among people of different traditions and cultures.

Before your group applies for funding it is essential that you:

- Talk to your cross-border and/or cross community partner group(s) about your project
- Discuss your project proposal with an Exchanges Programme Development Officer

One single application should be completed for each exchange project. This means partner applicant groups must work together to submit a joint application. Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

The Exchanges Programme does not fund retrospectively.

Date of next funding meeting: _____

Deadline for receipt of applications: _____



Funding Criteria

Funding is available towards transport, accommodation and meals. Additional project costs may be considered on an individual basis. Groups are encouraged to seek other sources of funding to supplement the Co-operation Ireland grant.

Groups must work with an Exchanges Programme Development Officer when developing and designing their project.

- Projects must be in line with the ethos of the Exchanges Programme. Applications must demonstrate how the exchange project will address issues of diversity and co-operation in the context of building reconciliation among people of different traditions and cultures
- Groups must take part in a minimum of two overnight exchanges in one calendar year
- The same participants must take part in each leg of the exchange
- Each project must include cross-border travel by all groups involved. One overnight residential must be in Northern Ireland and the other must be in the Republic of Ireland
- The total number of participants in the combined exchange group should not exceed 30
- Groups must use the most cost-effective means of achieving project objectives
- Projects must have a positive impact on the groups involved and on their wider communities



- Groups must have a mutual commitment to developing long-term relationships and show evidence of programme development when applying for repeat funding
- Group leaders should attend the regular Co-operation Ireland training events

Funding is not available for:

- Mileage
- Individuals
- Schools
- Salaries
- Capital costs
- Overseas Programmes/International Projects
- Alcohol

Funding decisions are discretionary and there is no obligation to support any particular project.

Funds available

The Exchanges Programme operates a tiered funding system. This is to encourage project development and sustainability.

First Contact Fund

- Involves cross-border groups meeting on a first contact basis and/or groups within Northern Ireland meeting on a cross community basis
- Some form of pre-exchange activity should be part of the overall programme
- The project should involve a minimum of two exchange visits during a calendar year. Each visit should include overnight stays
- The exchange should include at least one facilitated workshop*
- All participants and group leaders must undertake an evaluation of the project

The average funding available for First Contact exchange projects per calendar year is £2000. Projects successful in obtaining a grant from this fund must demonstrate more substantial project work in their next application. Groups cannot apply for the First Contact Fund two years running.

Level 2 Projects

- Involves groups which can demonstrate substantial recent involvement in cross-border or cross community projects
- Groups must include more than two exchange visits during each calendar year. Each visit should include overnight stays
- During the exchange, it is expected that a substantial percentage of programme time will be dedicated to facilitated workshops*
- All participants and group leaders must undertake an evaluation of the project

The average funding for Level 2 cross-border exchange projects per calendar year is £4000.

* The content of the facilitated workshops must be discussed and agreed with an Exchanges Programme Development Officer. Co-operation Ireland will only cover the facilitation costs incurred as agreed between the groups and their Exchanges Programme Development Officer.



Facilitation

Facilitation is a method of enabling something to happen: “To make easy, to lessen the difficulty of.”

It can provide delivery of groupwork programmes on a range of activities and issues. Good facilitation enables groups to reach consensus, set goals and develop skills.

Co-operation Ireland facilitates people who are undertaking the journey of developing new and meaningful relationships with others. By providing effective and proven programmes, Co-operation Ireland helps individuals and groups emerge from encounters with a more constructive view on difference and a better understanding of diversity.

Publicity

All projects funded can be used by Co-operation Ireland for publicity and fundraising purposes, unless otherwise agreed.

All publicity materials relating to your funded exchange must acknowledge the contribution of Co-operation Ireland’s Exchanges Programme.

