

Peace4Youth projects provide essential supports for young people in lockdown



Almost fifteen hundred young people benefited from essential supports provided by EU PEACE IV funded youth projects during lockdown.

That is the headline figure emerging from a survey of 11 Peace4Youth youth projects who moved their services online and continued to hold a connection with young people during the unprecedented public health restrictions that ensued from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The young people aged 14-24, who have lived the majority of their lives in 'peace', yet feel the visible and invisible ripple effects of the conflict in their everyday lives, are part of the €37 million European Union funded Peace4Youth Programme, which is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and takes place across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland.

The survey, 'A snapshot in Time', was released on (12/06/20) as infographic by YouthPact the Peace4Youth support body led by the peacebuilding charity Co-operation Ireland in partnership with Ulster University, Pobal and the National Youth Council of Ireland.

Along with the 1470 participants engaged, 175 new young people were welcomed on to the programme and over 5000 check in calls and contacts were made with individuals, groups and parents who were following the governments advice to 'stay at home and stay safe'. Youth workers stepped up to the challenges posed by lockdown, by upskilling and moving their activities, qualifications and support on-line, resulting in over 3000 one-to-one mentoring engagements and more than 1500 developmental or accreditation focussed activities and sessions.