



## Article

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# Economic Assistance to Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Community-Based Projects in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties: Challenges, Opportunities and Evolution

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## Abstract

The International Fund for Ireland and the European Union (EU) Peace III Fund have provided external economic resources to local community projects in Northern Ireland and the Border region to support intercommunal relations, community development, economic development, peacebuilding and reconciliation. The British and Irish governments, the EU, and the USA see the economic aid as their commitment to support the peace process, nurture the local voluntary sector, and build the peace dividend. The research findings demonstrate that the reality on the ground is more complex. Some believe that the economic assistance has created employment opportunities, built capacity, and localized peacebuilding knowledge. Others are more sceptical and perceive that the aid has created dependency, facilitated a competitive milieu, and has not transformed relationships in a sectarian environment.

## Keywords

Peacebuilding Northern Ireland Economic assistance Reconciliation Community relations Community development Economic development

## Concepts found in this article

[What is this?](#)

Group Leader    Border County    Peace Process    Peace Project

Community Building Initiative    Accounting Task    Grassroots Leadership

Local Strategic Partnership    Bridge Program    Reconciliation Project

Good Friday Agreement    Northern Ireland Conflict    Micro Enterprise

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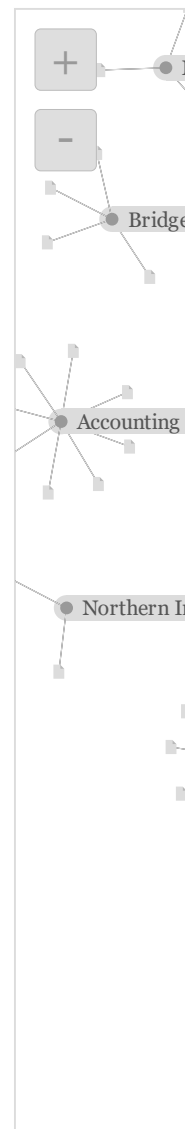
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