



Special EU Programmes Body

Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE

Special EU Schemes Boadie

Interact Event
Quality of Cooperation

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Planning



- Seven impact evaluations.
- Terminology focused on the effectiveness of cooperation rather than the quality.
- Limited working definition of quality of cooperation.
- Evaluation plan contained general guiding questions.

Analysing



- Evaluators collected data from a range of sources.
- Data collection methods varied across the evaluator and included:
 - Surveys, using open-ended questions that measured the hard and soft outcomes of cooperation.
 - Semi-structured interviews.
 - Focus groups.
 - Project case studies.
- Evaluation workshops/conferences demonstrated the extent and value of cooperation as a key achievement.

Reporting



Key findings on the effectiveness of cooperation at the project partnership level:

1. Partnerships at the defining stage, moving to developing, expanding stages and, in some cases, to embedding.
2. Sharing of resources, learning and good practices.
3. Strengthened capacity and capability, leading to smooth project implementation and better outcomes.
4. Strong relationships provided the foundations for future projects and sustainability.

Key findings on the effectiveness of cooperation at participant level:

1. Broader scope for community engagement and understanding of communities.
2. Increased cross-community/cross-border friendships.
3. Increased tolerance, cross-border/community engagement, and attitudinal/behavioural changes.

Presenting findings - Inconsistency in report writing/presentation. For example, no/limited section on cooperation; others had a chapter on sustainability.

Evaluating the Quality of Cooperation

PEACEPLUS Programme

Planning



- Better define and understand the quality of cooperation.
- Committee of Peer Evaluators.
- Clearer criteria to support evaluating the quality of cooperation.

Continue mixed method approach

1. Surveys to measure hard and soft outcomes.
2. Introducing our new “Digital Tool.”
3. Semi-structured interviews, including one-to-one and group interviews.
4. Focus groups.
5. Workshops/Shared Learning Forums.
6. Case studies.
7. Secondary data analysis of public data sources evidencing improved cooperation at the Programme level.
8. Broad, encompassing and cross-departmental data collection.

Analysing



- Increase reporting on cooperation, legacy and sustainability.
- Gather evidence on collaboration, coordination and communication mechanisms.
- Improve understanding and learning of outcomes/impacts of cooperation. For example, the quantity of effort, quality of cooperation, specific outcomes/impacts (increased knowledge, shared learning/expertise, change in attitudes and behaviours, joint services delivered, collaborative responses to problems, policies developed etc.)
- Disseminate evaluation findings for learning and capitalisation.

Reporting





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