

Joint Patrons:
Her Majesty The Queen
Her Excellency President Mary McAleese



Annual Report 2008-2009

Proudly celebrating 30 years





Co-operation Ireland Patrons & Board

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Her Excellency President Mary McAleese

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Joint Chairman's and Chief Executive's Report

This report reflects both a year of change, challenge and celebration.

The beginning of 2009 was a time of change for Co-operation Ireland with the introduction of a new chief executive. Coupled with this the organisation, like many other charities, is adversely affected by the downturn in the economy. Fundraising, particularly from the corporate sector, is greatly reduced and combined with the shift in exchange rates this impacted directly on our programme activity.

Despite this, the organisation has worked collectively and creatively to look for opportunities both at home and overseas. We have realigned ourselves and are focusing on more hard-hitting projects. We have consolidated our work with the communities in East Belfast, Short Strand and Finglas South and have embarked on further programme activities in these areas. We are actively engaged in replicating this innovative whole community approach to other disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

As a peace-building organisation we are also keen to give back to society some of the knowledge we have acquired over the past 30 years. Recently we have been working with other civil society organisations primarily in the Middle East and the Balkans. Our Civic-Link programme, through its involvement in the Civitas network, is collaboratively working with groups in Jordan and Columbia on human rights issues.

At home the Civic-Link team continues to deliver cutting edge programmes using the latest technology. Combining the virtual with reality the programme is being delivered in more than 50 school and youth groups.

During the latter part of 2008 and early 2009, some of our EU funded projects came to their natural end. ArtsLink, a hugely successful film

project concluded with the production of a DVD, which is being used to support other youth groups engaged in reconciliation activities.

As we closed our EU funding programmes, we commenced a unique cross-border reconciliation project, known as the Irish Peace Centres. Targeting a range of communities from ex-combatants to community groups, the project aims to change attitudes and behaviours relating to sectarianism and racism.

However the year is also one of celebration. In 2009 we celebrate our 30th anniversary. The pinnacle of our celebrations to date was a reception at Hillsborough Castle in May 2009. Co-operation Ireland's Joint Patrons Her Majesty The Queen and Her Excellency President Mary McAleese accompanied by HRH Prince Philip and Dr Martin McAleese were guests of honour. Hosted by the Secretary of State, the Rt. Hon Shaun Woodward MP, the hugely successful evening was attended by Co-operation Ireland staff, friends, supporters and programme participants, past and present.

Performing at the gala event were the international singing sensation The Priests and pupils from Grosvenor Grammar Chamber Choir, who have been involved in Co-operation Ireland's Civic-Link programme.

For the rest of the year we plan to give our events a celebratory feel to mark this very special anniversary.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the board, staff and patrons for their continued support and commitment. In particular we would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of Co-operation Ireland's previous Chief Executive Tony Kennedy OBE who retired at the end of 2008 and all the others who left the board during 2008. We also appreciate the support of all our funders.

Christopher J Moran

Chairman

Peter Sheridan OBE

Chief Executive

Programmes

Youth and Community

Exchanges

Co-operation Ireland's Exchanges Programme enabled more than forty groups to take part in cross-community and cross-border projects during the latter half of 2008 and early 2009. These groups came from all six counties of Northern Ireland and twelve counties in the Republic of Ireland, from as far south as Kerry and north as Donegal.

The groups represented a range of community and youth interests and all of their exchange activities included workshops and activities aimed at promoting mutual understanding, respect and an appreciation of cultural diversity.

Highlights from the programme included the booklets produced by two of the partnerships involved.

Limavady Silver Thread Club and Westport Active Retirement Association produced a booklet entitled "Peace Comes Dropping Slow". Working with facilitator Debbie Caulfield, the group documented the development of their linkages. The booklet illustrates how their relationships developed during their exchanges using personal photographs, stories and memorabilia.

Cavan 050 (Over 50 Network) and Newry and Mourne Senior Citizens Consortium produced a booklet entitled "Inspiring Treasures From Age to Age". The collection of local stories, traditions and folklore was produced by the two groups along with Co-operation Ireland facilitator Aine McGowan.

During 2008, a new evaluation framework was introduced. Analysis of pre and post questionnaires completed by participants and their leaders highlighted the positive impact the exchange process has on the participants.

Other developments included the production of a 'toolkit' to support groups to get involved in exchange work. This web-based support tool, which will be available later in the year, gives practical advice on all aspects of planning and undertaking a cross-border exchange.

In 2009, Co-operation Ireland restructured its small grants funding programme to enable new groups, or those with little or no contact with groups from the other side of the community and border, to participate in the exchange process. Many of the existing linkages have become self-sustaining and are at a stage where they carry out their own financial planning for the work they are planning to do.

Future Developments

New and challenging programmes are being introduced in 2009-2010. One such project, Communities in Focus has received funding through the Belfast City Council Peace III Small Grants.

Other future developments include the introduction of:

- My Community Space: A web-based hub of activities providing an easily accessible point of contact and information for all involved in our work.
- Shared Stories: A heritage-based project linking communities throughout Northern Ireland and enabling them to share and learn about their communities and identities.
- Community Radio: The development of a mobile community radio training programme.

CORE

The past year has been an amazing one for the people involved in the CORE project. There have been both large and small scale exchanges between the people living and working in the East Belfast, Short Strand and Finglas South areas. The range of activity has varied greatly, as have the ages and interests of the many people who have been involved in making connections, organising exchanges and developing relationships across the community and across the border.

Some of the activities which have taken place during 2008/9, many of which will be expanded on in 2009/10, include:

- The Giants HEROS Programme - 30 young people participated in the 2008 summer Ice Hockey Camp. Developed in partnership with the Belfast Giants and HEROS Programme (Canada) the project uses ice hockey to develop people's skills and confidence, as well as developing relationships between the participants. This project won the Bronze award in Belfast City Council's Safety Award. The project is delivered in partnership with East Belfast Alternatives, The Den Youth Service (Finglas), The Bridge, Walkway Community Association and The Doyle Youth Club (Short Strand). These organisations have worked hard to enhance the programme and are currently recruiting a new group of 30 young people for the 2009 camp.
- A cross-community initiative enabled St. Matthews Primary School parents to host Avoneil parents and their children in their school and parish's St. Patrick's Day celebrations.
- Ballymac Womens' group participated in a residential with The Darling Buds womens' group from Finglas.
- A Fashion Show scheduled for the Den (Finglas) during September 2009 will help to develop the skills, confidence and aspirations of young women in the area. Later in the year, they plan to showcase their work to the wider community.

Other events included:

- Summer Scheme exchanges between Walkway, Short Strand and The Den.
- Older residents from Short Strand and East Belfast attended the Senior Citizens' Ball in Erin's Isle GAA Club in Finglas South.
- Young and older people from Finglas South attended the Somme Commemoration Parade in East Belfast.
- The St. Helena's House After Schools Club continued a school project by visiting East Belfast to explore the community where the Titanic was built.
- Residents from Finglas South attended the Remembrance Weekend services in East Belfast in November.
- The Survivors of Suicide group in East Belfast and the Family Suicide Support Group in Finglas have been working together since CORE commenced and are keen to progress into storytelling work together later in the year.
- The Wise Men of the East and the Mens' Group in St. Helena's House continue to work together to explore mens' health issues.

One of CORE's flagship events is the George Best Community Cup, which has been developed by the CORE Project and the Sydenham Historical & Cultural Society. The event is a 3 day (3-5 July 2009), East Belfast based, cross-community and cross-border football tournament, which will bring together local Belfast and Northern Ireland teams as well as teams from the Republic of Ireland and Great Britain. Thirty-two teams involving 512 young people are expected to participate in the 11-a-side tournament which will be split between two different age groups – Under 13s and Under 17s. Organised to promote community spirit, the tournament will also emphasise anti-sectarianism and anti-racism themes.

Central to the success of the CORE project are the people and organisations that develop, plan and undertake the work. Congratulations and thanks to all of them for their dedication and commitment.

Programmes

Education

Civic-Link

During the academic year 2008-09, Co-operation Ireland worked with hundreds of young people from 50 schools and youth groups in 4 separate strands of the highly successful Civic-Link Programme:

1. Human Rights – The Civic-Link team have been working on both a cross-border and international project with organisations and groups focused on Human Rights issues.
2. A new virtual interface has been developed. Recognising that young people communicate using social networking and virtual reality, the team have embraced these ideas and created a virtual train station whereby young people can engage in advanced Civic-Link project-based activities.
3. The team continues to work with participating schools on a face-to-face basis but are now combining this with virtual and web-based activities.
4. Working on a cross-community basis within Northern Ireland, the team are working in sensitive communities, bringing groups together to identify and solve local community problems together.

In this the 10th year of its citizenship project in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, Civic-Link has continued to adapt to changing environmental and curriculum developments. For Co-operation Ireland it is particularly important that we share our learning with others. During 2008 – 2009, Civic-Link staff worked in collaboration with the U.S Center for Civic Education to deliver a Civic-Link Human Rights model in Kosovo, Serbia and Bosnia, involving over 100 teachers. This is part of a teacher training initiative within the Civitas network. Other partner countries such as Jordan and Columbia are also adopting our Civic-Link /Human Rights project and work continues with them, to develop these specific projects in these countries.

Future plans

The Civic-Link team are greatly encouraged by the esteem in which the programme is held both at home and overseas. Therefore they have many plans to develop and expand the programme's outputs.

As well as the on-going Civic-Link project activities, the team will focus on the following three areas:

International:

- The ongoing development of the International link with Idaho through further collaborative pilot activities between partnered Idaho and Irish schools. Idaho and Irish schools to continue the Human Rights link set up last year.
- The development of links with other countries in the Civitas network - Colombia and Jordan. These links will involve collaboration on the Human Rights and IT themes.

Training:

- In-service training of teachers. The emphasis of the training will be on the introduction of the new interactive, cross-community and Human Rights materials.
- Pre-service training and briefings will continue to be delivered to trainee teachers .

Monitoring, Analysis and Evaluation:

This includes:

- The general evaluation of Civic-Link groups, through pupil surveys, focussed interviews and feedback from the participants and teachers/youth leaders.
- The monitoring of 10 cross-community schools and the testing of Civic-Link as a tool for Reconciliation within Northern Ireland.
- The development of interactive and innovative assessment instruments within the on-line Civic-Link environment. The 10 participating schools will receive enhanced support.
- The piloting of a Human Rights Project Citizen to develop collaboration and a global perspective on civic action and mutual understanding.

ArtsLink

The ArtsLink project concluded in August 2008. During the two years of the programme, 431 students and teachers participated in the arts based education project.

An external evaluation of ArtsLink highlighted the positive impact the project had on the participants and their families.

As a lasting legacy of the programme, the Arts Links project manager, Paula Madigan along with the ArtsLink planning and design group produced a DVD resource kit, which will support future groups who plan to use the arts as a medium for reconciliation work both at home and overseas.

The production of the DVD is part of Co-operation Ireland's plan to give back to society some of the learning we have attained over the past 30 years.

Co-operation Ireland thanks the European Union for its support of this project.

Civic-Link Virtual Train Station



Programmes

Local Authorities

Co-operation Ireland's Local Authority All-Island Forum is made up of five Chief Executives nominated by the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and five County Managers nominated by County and City Managers' Association (CCMA). During 2008 and in early 2009 the Forum's work has been conducted through its sub-committees, which are responsible for disseminating information and sharing best practice on a cross-border and all-island basis. The work achieved by the Forum's sub-groups is as follows:

Community Safety:

The Community Safety sub-group agreed the objective of the project:

"To examine the experiences and approaches to Community Policing and Community Safety issues in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, to exchange learning and best practice, and to improve communications and co-operation."

The work of the Community Safety sub-group culminated in a successful one-day seminar in May 2008. Its aim was to share and learn from the experiences and approaches to community involvement in local policing developed through the various District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) and Joint Policing Committees (JPCs). The event was attended and supported by members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland and An Garda Síochána as well as members of the Policing Boards. Alex Maskey, of the Policing Board for Northern Ireland said he welcomed the opportunity to share knowledge with the JPC's from the Republic of Ireland and to work together to share best practice. The seminar was also attended by Minister Paul Goggins MP, Minister of State for NI and Mr Martin Mansergh TD, Minister of State for Finance.

Recreation Facilities:

The Recreation Facilities sub-group brought together experts from councils North and South to examine approaches and best practice in the areas of leisure provision, sports and the arts. Five papers were prepared by individual or paired council officers and presented to members of the sub-group. The group then received authorisation to commission an independent consultant to review and add relevant and comparative material, including examples of best practice throughout the island of Ireland. Five core topics were identified with a view to preparing substantive papers on each. The topics are:

- Sport/Arts as a tool to build communities and regenerate localities.
- Changing scene of facility provision and management.
- Health through recreation.
- Access to sport.
- The role of the Arts.

The launch of this publication will take place in November 2009 to coincide with the first joint SOLACE/CCMA conference. The aim of this conference is to strengthen the links between local authorities on the island and bring the work of the forum to the attention of members.

Other areas of on-going work include that of the Community Development sub-group, which is undertaking the analysis of council led community development projects to identify the critical success factors of these projects as a benchmark for best practice.

All-Island Pride of Place Competition

2008 was the sixth year of the Pride of Place Competition. A record number of community groups (113 nominations) from all over the island participated. Judging took place between June and August and the winners were announced at a Gala Awards Night in Cappaquin Community Centre, Co Waterford in November. This wonderful occasion was graced by the attendance of President Mary McAleese and Dr. Martin McAleese.

Innovations or new developments in 2008 included:

- The introduction of a new 'Islands Category'.
- Designated category themes – Social Care, Care Of The Environment And Community Facility featured in the single issue category.
- Awards Ceremony held for the first time in a Community Centre.

Plans for 2009

The 2009 Pride of Place Awards Ceremony will take place in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, Co Down on 21 November 2009.

The 2009 Pride of Place Competition will feature:

- Entries from all ten cities on the island of Ireland: Belfast, Newry, L'Derry, Lisburn, Armagh, Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Galway.
- A new housing estates competition.
- Designated themes of Heritage, Youth and Integration in the main competition and 'Enterprise in the Community and 'a natural and built environment initiative' in the Cities' competition.
- Establishment of the Islands' category.

Certificates of Participation will once again be issued to all participants and details of all entrants will feature in the 2009 Gala Awards Brochure.



Media Programme

In 2008, Co-operation Ireland held the 10th annual Student Journalism Conference in Dublin City Library.

Journalism students from colleges and universities from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland heard from speakers who examined the theme of 'Reporting the Present, Preparing for the Future'.

The guest speaker was the BBC US Correspondent Kevin Connolly, who gave an insightful recount of the media's influence in President Obama's successful presidential election campaign.

Brendan Keenan, Group Business Editor at Independent Newspapers and Dr John Bradley, an international consultant debated the media and the economy, paying particular attention to North-South economic inter-relationships.

In the sponsors discussion forum, Gary McDonald from the Irish News, Geoff Hill from the News Letter and Hugh Linehan from The Irish Times discussed how technology and environmental issues will impact on the future of journalism.

This year's conference will be held in Belfast during November 2009.



Funding and Support

The past 12 months have been a time of transition for the Funding and Support Unit due to both the breadth of new opportunities created by the changes within European Union funding structures, and the closure of all projects supported by the Unit and funded through the Peace II Extension and Interreg IIIA programmes.

In order to respond to the challenge of these changes, the Unit has worked to create a network of partner organisations that will bring new ideas and fresh approaches to cross border work. To achieve this goal, an extensive process of engagement has been undertaken with the Local Authority led “Peace III clusters”, and a number of other organisations operating at a strategic cross-border development level e.g. Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN).

We have also sought to utilise our skills and experience of European Union funding to bring to fruition a number of partnerships that can competitively bid for new funding opportunities. This work has been undertaken in tandem with other work teams within Co-operation Ireland.

The success of this process is illustrated in the recent establishment of the Irish Peace Centres initiative. Led by Co-operation Ireland, the Irish Peace Centres aims to extend and embed reconciliation within and between communities by creating a strategic consortium to deliver a range of peace-building activities.

The project is delivered by a consortium of peace-building organisations who seek to cultivate and sustain positive relationships at a local level across the region and across traditional sectarian and new social divides. The members of the consortium include:

- Co-operation Ireland (Lead Partner)
- Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
- The Donegal Peace Centre at An Teach Ban
- The Corrymeela Community

It is envisaged that a network of people and groups will grow out of the consortium, which will contribute to a change in attitudes and behaviours relating to sectarianism and racism. The Irish Peace Centres is funded by the European Union Peace III Programme, administered and delivered by the Special EU Programmes Body.

Outside of European Union funding, the Funding and Support team also began the roll out of the Modernisation Fund (Capital) Programme. Funded by the Department for Social Development and delivered in partnership with Community Places and Community Evaluation Northern Ireland, the objective of the programme is to encourage collaboration and resource sharing among voluntary and community organisations through the development of physical infrastructure. The programme places particular priority on access to services and facilities for disadvantaged children and young people. There is a total funding allocation of £15 million available under this scheme.

Assessments of applications received under this programme have now been completed and as of June 2009, 50 contracts for funding have been awarded, worth a total of £5.2 million.

The Funding and Support team intend to continue this work into the coming year and have developed a number of other partnerships and ideas that we expect will come to fruition over the next 12 months. We will also explore all opportunities provided by the European Union Interreg IV Programme and we plan to work with businesses and colleges involved in new technology-based industries so collectively we can increase our competitiveness in a global marketplace.

Research and Development

The Research and Development Unit continued to develop and implement an organisation-wide approach to evaluation across Co-operation Ireland's programmes. Our aim is to demonstrate the benefits and impacts of our activities and to capture and assess learning arising from our different models to inform future project development.

Particular emphasis this year was placed on the monitoring and impact assessment of new project initiatives, including two pilot Civic-Link models, based on cross-community and human rights approaches, with a view to refining ongoing design and development, and wider dissemination. Priority was also given to the ongoing evaluation of the CORE project, Co-operation Ireland's innovative area-based model, with baseline research carried out in the participating communities.

The Unit also supports Co-operation Ireland's aim of informing policy development in both jurisdictions around issues of North/South co-operation and good relations. In addition to participating in relevant public consultations and reviews, the Unit facilitates: (i) Co-operation Ireland's Leinster House All-Party Liaison Group, which brings together members of all the main southern political parties to engage around issues of North/South co-operation and community relations within Northern Ireland, (ii) North/South Ad Hoc Group, which consists of leading all-island and cross-border civil society organisations who meet regularly to network, share information, and enhance their individual efforts to influence North/South policy.

Highlights of the past year's activities for both groups included the Leinster House Group's fact-finding mission to the border region, where they visited a number of organisations working on a cross-border basis, including the North South Ministerial Council, Middletown Autism Centre, and Waterways Ireland. On behalf of the Ad Hoc Group we organised a roundtable discussion for social partners and civil society organisations to consider the issues around the establishment of the North South Consultative Forum.

In other activities, the Unit supported Co-operation Ireland's role as an Intermediary Funding Body by co-ordinating the submission of final evaluations for projects funded under Measures 5.3 and 5.4 of the European Union PEACE II Extension Programme and Measure 3.1 of the INTERREG IIIA Programme and assisting in the measure closure process.



Co-operation Ireland USA

Co-operation Ireland USA is the US based sister organisation of Co-operation Ireland. As a registered 501(c)3 charitable organisation located in New York City, its primary purpose is to secure funding and to strategically raise awareness of Co-operation Ireland programmes.

The US Board of Directors consists of influential corporate and governmental leaders who support the vision of reconciliation and peace throughout the island of Ireland. Their commitment provides a platform from which the Executive Director conducts strategic fundraising, public awareness and advocacy efforts across corporate, foundation and US governmental categories.

On September 24, 2008 we held our annual dinner in the Roosevelt Hotel, New York City and the guest speakers were The Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson MP, MLA and Gerry Kelly MLA, Junior Ministers in the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Stormont.

The evening, which celebrated 28 years of peace-building also served as an important fundraiser for Co-operation Ireland USA. More than 250 guests attended the event, which raised more than \$275k in support. We extend special thanks to the event's champion sponsors:- Coca-Cola, Invest Northern Ireland, Moët Hennessy, HSBC, KPMG, Pfizer, Schering-Plough and John and Helen Sharkey.

The general focus for 2009/2010 will be:

- Strategy on operating smarter and more efficiently in a tough philanthropic environment.
- Looking proactively for collaborative opportunities with allied Irish organisations.
- Seeking efficient and cost-effective means and methods of delivering programmes and events.
- Efforts underway to broaden board membership and involvement.
- Expanding Co-operation Ireland supporter base to reach people of various interests and ages.

Upcoming Events

Events and Programmes for 2009/10 which are in the planning and execution stages include:

- Bike New England in the Fall Sept 22-29, 2009. Organised in collaboration with Co-operation Ireland's Events Team, covering coastal Massachusetts, New Hampshire and the urban Boston's Hub on Wheels event.
- Gala Dinner/Joint Celtic Ball October 8, 2009. Organised in partnership with the Irish Chamber of Commerce USA, this inaugural joint gala dinner will take place at the illustrious Waldorf Astoria. Keynote Speaker, Thomas J. Donohue, President & CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, will be presented with the Sir Michael Smurfit Lifetime Achievement Award 2009.
- Late December 2009-Pending major corporate sponsorship support, a potential Christmas benefit concert by the Sony recording artists, The Three Priests. Venue possibly St. Patrick's Cathedral. Anticipate a post-concert party drinks reception in midtown Manhattan.
- Winter 2010. Currently discussions are underway with Food Network, Bord Bia (Irish Food Board), Moët Hennessy USA and others to host "A Taste of Ireland" evening of Irish food and beverage. The event is also expected to include live/silent auction, and appearance/participation by celebrity chefs and entertainment media stars.

Sneak previews of events and programmes will be available on our website www.cooperationireland.org/usa

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Communications and Fundraising

Spreading our message

During the year preceding May 2009, Co-operation Ireland gained substantial media coverage of both its programmes and events at national and regional level.

The coverage included sponsored advertising campaigns, television programme reports, national and regional radio interviews and both national and regional newspaper reports and interviews.

Highlights of Media Coverage

Civic-Link showcases: 40 local regional school showcases presenting project learning to and addressing local issues with public policy makers - May/June 2008.

Bike Ride 25: Dundalk - A new home midway between Dublin and Belfast for the charity's flagship cycle challenge - June 2008.

HEROS Ice Hockey Camp: Organised as part of the Co-operation CORE project (inner East Belfast/ Short Strand & Finglas South) 30 young people from both inner city areas received expert Ice Hockey coaching from the Belfast Giants and Canadian HEROS professionals.

Beyond Borders Project: The Village area of South Belfast and the Maryfield area of Cork jointly celebrated the completion of their youth mural project - September 2008.

Pride of Place Awards Ceremony: President Mary McAleese presented 30 Pride of Place Awards to representatives from successful groups who participated in the annual all-island community project. 120 community groups and their Local Authorities were represented at the Awards Dinner in Cappoquin, Co. Waterford - November 2008.

School Choir Competition: Co-operation Ireland in conjunction with RTE, supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Titanic Quarter launched the first ever all island School Choir competition to be staged in October/November 09. RTE will televise 4 regional heats and a prestigious final in Belfast while selecting the Co-operation Ireland School Choir 09 champion.

Celebrating 30 years of Co-operation Ireland with our Patrons: Co-operation Ireland was honoured to celebrate its 30th birthday in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and Her Excellency President Mary McAleese at a reception at Hillsborough Castle on 07 May 2009.



Fundraising in Difficult Times

As the year progressed, the credit crunch bit deeper, creating many difficult trading conditions for both our corporate and individual fundraising campaigns. The traditional support base of Banks and Financial Services were unable to back the charity as they struggled to survive the worst economic downturn in recent memory. Our sporting challenges suffered as individual supporters were also directly affected by the economic downturn.

To deal effectively with the current downturn Co-operation Ireland has firstly reduced its staff resource and contracted events management bill, and secondly re-tendered its print and design contracts making saving of over £100,000. The charity's fundraising team is now widening its fundraising strategy to augment the previously highly successful corporate and sporting challenge events programmes. Consideration is being given to:

Memberships

Foundations and Trusts

Corporate Programme Support

Targeting Individual Donors

Online giving

Over the past 12 months, Co-operation Ireland has organised a series of dinners and balls to fundraise for its programmes. In total seven events took place in Manchester, Dublin, Galway, Belfast and Liverpool with two events in London's Dorchester hotel, one for the legal profession and the other for the Irish business community. Table sales for the events were more difficult than the previous three years, but the real reduction in income came about because of much more testing conditions for our charity auctions.

The Co-operation Ireland Golf Classic calendar over the past year saw events take place at Forest of Arden, Royal Dublin, Cork, Royal County Down and the Belfry. Over 500 golfers supported our charity through participation in the classics, which were attended by sports personalities Martin O'Neill, Pat Jennings, Chris Nicholl, Steve Staunton, Michael Gibson, Barney Rock, Gary Shaw, and Sammy Nelson and presenters & comedians, Gerry Kelly, Brian Ormond, Gene Fitzpatrick, John Linehan, Sean Crummey and Patrick Kieilty.

Bike Ride 25 attracted 560 cyclists to the new cross-border biking route, taking in the Cooley and Mourne Mountains. Our joint ventures with Marie Keating Foundation and Ulster Cancer Foundation saw 50 people take on the Stormont to The Dáil bike ride in September while 80 walkers ascended Ben Nevis in Scotland to raise funds for the three worthy causes. The challenge of the year occurred when 25 cyclists took on a gruelling 400-mile ride in Nepal, which saw them ascend to over 2500m.

A huge thanks to all those who supported Co-operation Ireland through these difficult times.

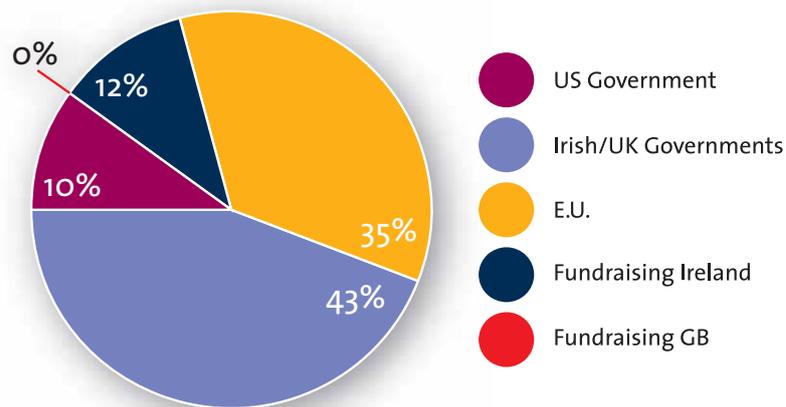


Financial Statistics

Income and Expenditure

The following figures show the operating income and expenditure for the Dublin and Belfast companies, extracted from the annual accounts audited by KPMG.

	2008		2007	
	Dublin €000's	Belfast £000's	Dublin €000's	Belfast £000's
Income				
Donations	931	706	1,123	389
Other Income	1,008	1,146	877	1,233
EU Peace II Income		1,101		694
	1,939	2,953	2,000	2,316
Less Expenditure				
Programme costs	1,924	1,850	1,899	1,489
Administration	87	94	78	96
EU Peace II Expenditure		1,101		694
	2,011	3,045	1,977	2,279
Surplus/(Deficit)	(72)	(92)	23	37



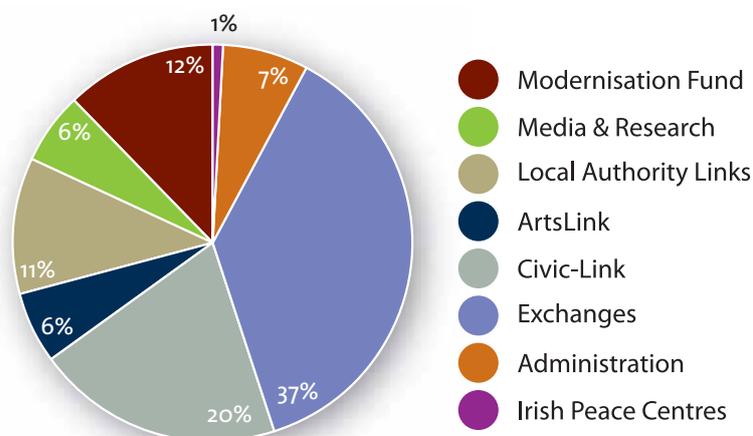
Income 2008 (Excluding Peace II Technical Assistance)

Financial Statistics

Balance Sheets

Summarised Balance Sheets as at 31st Dec 2008 and 2007 are shown below, extracted from the annual accounts audited by KPMG.

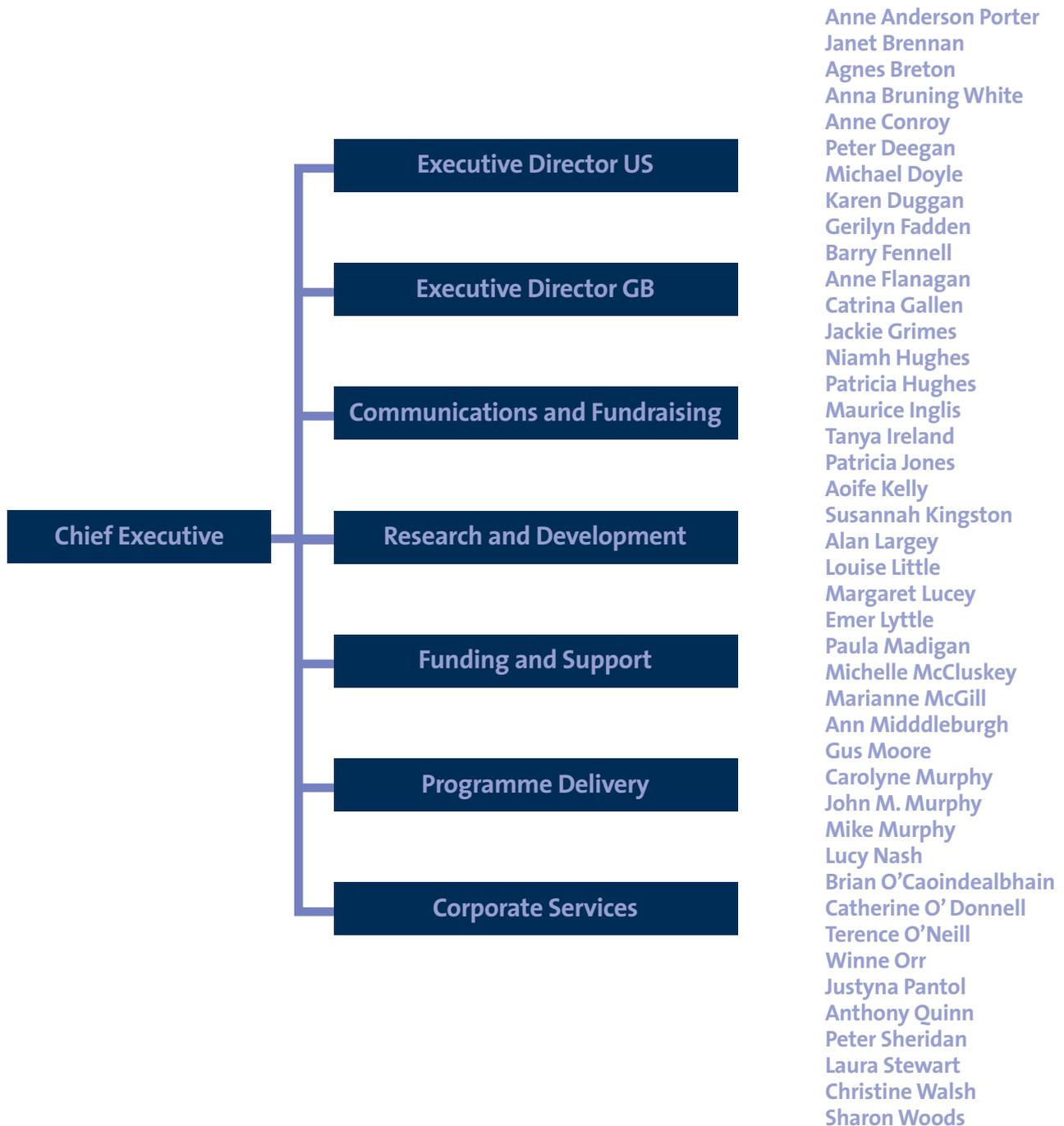
	2008		2007	
	Dublin €000's	Belfast £000's	Dublin €000's	Belfast £000's
Fixed Assets	11	13	20	1
Current Assets				
Debtors	342	356	483	370
Cash at Bank	94	20	82	4
EU Peace II Bank		37		86
	436	413	565	460
Creditors				
Creditors and Accruals	390	334	454	227
EU Peace II Creditors		37		86
	390	371	454	313
Net Current Assets	46	42	111	147
Total Net Assets	57	55	131	148
Capital Reserves				
Revenue Reserves	57	55	131	148



Expenditure 2008 (Excluding Peace II Technical Assistance)

Organisation Structure

(January 2009) Staff Members



Co-operation Ireland

Fundraising Events Calendar

2009

28-30 AUG
BEN NEVIS CHALLENGE

2-5 SEPT
TOUR THE KINGDOM

22-29 SEPT
NEW ENGLAND IN THE FALL
OVERSEAS CYCLING
CHALLENGE

5 OCT
PAT JENNINGS
GOLF CLASSIC

8 OCT
AMERICAN CELTIC BALL,
WALDORF ASTORIA,
NEW YORK

17 OCT
GALA DINNER,
THE CINNAMON CLUB,
BOWDON, CHESHIRE

1 NOV
NEW YORK CITY
MARATHON

5 NOV
GALA BALL,
THE DORCHESTER HOTEL,
LONDON

26 NOV
GALA DINNER,
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY,
BELFAST

29 DEC
CORPORATE RACEDAY,
LEOPARDSTOWN
RACECOURSE

2010

16 APRIL
GOLF CLASSIC,
ST GEORGE'S HILL,
WEYBRIDGE, SURREY

22 APRIL
LEGAL DINNER,
THE DORCHESTER HOTEL,
LONDON

25 APRIL
LONDON MARATHON

3 MAY
BELFAST RELAY MARATHON

MAY
GALA DINNER,
UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

10 JUNE
GALA DINNER,
TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN

JUNE
CORK GOLF CLASSIC

26 - 27 JUNE
CO-OPERATION IRELAND
BIKE RIDE

AUG
BEN NEVIS CHALLENGE

SEPT
4-DAY CYCLE IRELAND BIKE
RIDE

SEPT/OCT
OVERSEAS BIKE CHALLENGE

4 OCT
PAT JENNINGS GOLF CLASSIC,
ROYAL CO DOWN, NEWCASTLE

OCT
GALA BALL, HOTEL MEYRICK,
GALWAY

OCT
GALA DINNER,
THE CINNAMON CLUB,
BOWDON, CHESHIRE

7 NOV
NEW YORK CITY
MARATHON

NOV
GALA BALL,
THE DORCHESTER HOTEL,
LONDON

NOV
GALA DINNER,
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY,
BELFAST

DEC
CORPORATE RACEDAY,
LEOPARDSTOWN RACECOURSE

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