The new LIFE Regulation 
(2014-2020)

Outline

1. Overview of LIFE 2014-2020
   1. Objectives
   2. Structure and budget overview
   3. The sub-programme for Environment: priority areas and thematic priorities
   4. The sub-programme for Climate Action: priority areas

2. The tools to achieve the objectives
   1. Types of funding-overview
   2. Types of projects and co-financing rates
   3. Integrated projects
   4. Capacity building projects (conditions and activities funded)

3. Multiannual Work Programme

4. Calendar
1.1 Objectives of the LIFE Programme (2014-2020)

- LIFE should be used as a catalyst;

- LIFE should promote implementation and integration of environment and climate objectives in other policies and Member State practice, including mainstreaming;

- Emphasis will also be placed on better governance;

- Specific link to EU priorities: resource efficiency, biodiversity loss and climate adaptation and mitigation.
1.2 Structure and budget for 2014-2020

Creation of two sub-programmes:

- LIFE sub-programme for Environment, including as priorities areas environment and resource efficiency, nature and biodiversity, and governance and information

- LIFE sub-programme for Climate Action, including as priorities areas adaptation, mitigation and governance and information

Budget: €3,456.7 million (€2,592.5 m for ENV, €864.2 m for CLIMA)
1.3 Sub-programme for Environment

Structure:

1. Environment & Resource Efficiency

2. Nature and Biodiversity

3. Environmental Governance & Information:
1.3 Sub-programme for Environment

Thematic Priorities for funding (defined in Annex III):

- Thematic Priorities for **Nature** and for **Biodiversity**;
- Thematic Priorities for **Water**, including the **marine** environment;
- Thematic Priorities for **Waste**;
- Thematic Priorities for **Resource Efficiency**, including **soil and forests** and **green and circular economy**;
- Thematic Priorities for **Environment and Health**, including **chemicals and noise**;
- Thematic Priorities for **Air Quality and Emissions**, including the urban environment;
- Thematic Priorities for **Information and Governance**

- **To be translated into project topics for funding in the Multiannual work programme**
Priority areas and their objectives:

- Climate Change Mitigation contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Climate Change Adaptation supports efforts leading to increased resilience to climate change
- LIFE Climate Governance and Information

Specific objectives:

- Implement and develop Union policy and legislation and mainstream activities across policy areas
- Improve and apply knowledge base in practice
- Develop and implement integrated strategies and action plans
- Develop and demonstrate innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments for replication, transfer or mainstreaming
1.2 Structure and budget for 2014-2020

LIFE Programme
€3,456.7 (2014-2020)

Sub-programme for Environment
€2,592.5 (75% of LIFE budget)
- Nature & Biodiversity
- Environment & Resource Efficiency
- Information & Governance

Sub-programme for Climate Action
€864.2 (25% of LIFE budget)
- Information & Governance

Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Adaptation
Information & Governance

€1,155 min (55% of ENV Sub-program
1.2 National allocations

- **National allocations:**
  - For the duration of the first multiannual work programme (2014-2017), national allocations applicable **only to traditional projects** under the ENV sub-programme
  - From the second multiannual work programme (2018-2020), national allocations are **phased out** and selection is only merit based

- **Selection for traditional projects under the Climate sub-programme** only merit based for the duration of the whole Programme (2014-2020)
1.2 Territorial Scope

Possible participation of **Third Countries** (as per current LIFE+) – based on supplementary funding.

Possible co-operation with **International Organisations** (e.g., international studies such as TEEB).

**Activities outside the Union and in OCTs** possible in when:

- Action outside the EU is **necessary** to achieve EU environmental/climate objectives; and
- To ensure the **effectiveness** of interventions carried out in the MS; and
- The **coordinating beneficiary** is based in the EU.
2.1 The Tools/Types of Funding: overview

- **Projects (at least 81% of the budget):**
  
  Action grants for both traditional projects and new types of projects: integrated Projects, technical assistance projects for IPs, capacity building projects and preparatory projects
  
  Possibility to make contributions to innovative financial instruments to finance projects

- **Operating grants and Other types of funding (cannot exceed 19% of ENV sub-programme budget):**
  
  Operating Grants (NGOs, IMPEL)- no earmarking but about 3% of the Programme - 70% co-financing rate;
  
  Other types of funding - public procurement (e.g., studies, conferences, service contracts, technical assistance for the monitoring of LIFE, etc.)- no earmarking but about 15% of the Programme
2.2 Types of Projects

• At least 81% of the budget for the Programme (approx. €2,800 million):

  • Traditional projects: best practice, innovation and demonstration projects, as well as dissemination/information projects and governance projects (similar to LIFE+)

  • Integrated projects: projects aiming at the implementation on a large territorial scale plans and strategies required by EU legislation in the areas of nature, water, waste, air;

  • Preparatory projects: projects identified by the Commission to support specific needs for the implementation and development of EU environmental or climate policy and legislation

  • Capacity building projects: financial support to the activities required to build the capacity of Member States with a view to enabling their more effective participation in LIFE
2.2 Co-financing Rates

- **Traditional Nature and Biodiversity Projects:** 60% co-financing but 75% for projects targeting priority habitats & species.

- **Integrated projects, preparatory projects and technical assistance projects:** 60% co-financing.

- **Capacity building projects:** 100% co-financing.

- **All other projects,** i.e., traditional projects under the sub-programme of Climate Action and traditional projects under priorities Environment and Resources Efficiency and Environment Governance and information Projects in the sub-programme for Environment:
  - **60% co-financing** during the first multiannual work programme (2014-2017).
  - **55% co-financing** during the second multiannual work programme (2018-2020).
2.3 Integrated Projects

- Aiming at **implementation of plans, programmes or strategies** required by EU environmental or climate legislation or pursuant to other acts or developed by MS authorities;

- **Larger scale**, e.g., regional, multiregional, national;

- Primarily in **the areas of nature, water, waste, air, climate mitigation and adaptation**;

- They are **inclusive**: stakeholders must be involved as associated beneficiaries;

- **Sustainability** will be important as well as **mobilisation of other funds (EU or other)**;
2.3 Integrated Projects

Complementarity with other funds:

- Specific section in the draft Common Provisions Regulation regarding LIFE:

  Member States shall promote and, where appropriate [...] ensure complementarity and coordination with LIFE, in particular with integrated projects [...] through measures such as [...] promoting the funding of activities through the European Structural and Investment Funds that complement IPs

- Reference in sectoral regulations and Partnership Agreements

- Links needed in OPs/RDPs:
2.3 The tools: IP examples - Nature

A Region develops a Regional Programme for Natura2000 covering all 50 sites under its jurisdiction, and aimed at PAF implementation.

It identifies the necessary range of management and conservation activities.

The region then identifies the financial needs for the implementation of these activities and submits a proposal for a LIFE Integrated Project.

This project clearly specifies the activities or group of activities among those included in the programme that will be financed by LIFE

- e.g. the restoration and connectivity activities, capacity building, awareness raising.

In addition, it presents evidence on how it will use other funds (EARDF, ERDF, private) to implement the complementary measures

- compensation payments, making power lines safe for birds, infrastructure etc.
2.3 Integrated Projects

**Budget:**

- 30% ceiling of the funds dedicated to projects
- Max. €855 million for 7 years (of which around €637 million in the sub-programme for Environment)
- Geographical balance: 3 IPs per Member State over 7 years

**Other aspects:**

- Technical assistance in support of IPs possible for potential applicants
- Provisions regarding exchange of experience, best practices, and National Contact Point support enhanced
- Active dissemination of examples and good practices by LIFE and in the specific working groups and committees for the sectors concerned
2.4 Capacity building projects

- Provide financial support to the **activities required to build the capacity of LIFE national or regional contact points**;
- They will be based on a **Capacity Development Plan** agreed with the Commission.
- Only 2 projects possible per Member State (one for the period 2014-2017 and a second one for the period 2018-2020)
- The maximum funds to be allocated for both projects will be **€1.75 million per eligible Member State** (up to €1 million for the first multiannual work programme and up to €750,000 for the second multiannual work programme)
- Member State must commit to maintaining resources dedicated to the LIFE Programme, including inter alia staffing levels, no lower than those in place in 2012, for the duration of the relevant multiannual work programme
2.4 Capacity building

- Member States eligibility for the first multiannual work programme period is based on a combination of GPD per capita and performance in LIFE+: 15 Member States qualify for capacity building in the first multiannual work programme: BG, CY, CZ, EE, EL, HU, LT, LV, MT, POL, PT, RO, SI, SK and HR.

- Member States eligibility for the second multiannual work programme period is only based on performance:
  - low average absorption level for the years 2014-2016 and
  - average absorption level for the years 2014-2016 has increased compared to the years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Exclusion criteria in all cases: a Member State shall be ineligible for funding for capacity building projects if its GDP per capita in 2012 is above 105% of the Union average.
2.4 Capacity building- activities funded

- **Recruitment of new personnel** and training for national or regional contact points;
- Activities aimed at **facilitating exchange of experience** and best practice and at **promoting the dissemination** and use of LIFE project results;
- **Train the trainer** approaches;
- **Exchange and secondment programmes** between public authorities in Member States (e.g., best in class exchange activities);
- **Procurement of expert** to address **ad-hoc** technical and process capability gaps
- **BUT SHOULD NOT FINANCE**: procurement of experts whose primary function is the drafting of proposals for submission under the annual call for proposals
3. Multi Annual Work Programmes

- Shift from a pure bottom-up approach to a **flexible top-down approach**;
- Prepared by the Commission in consultation with the MS
- **First period: 2014-2017**
3. Multi Annual Work Programmes

- Allocation of funds between priority areas and between different types of funding within each sub-programme:
  
  **Limitations:**
  - distribution between **ENV and CLIMA sub-programmes** provided by the Regulation (75% for ENV and 25% for CLIMA)
  - At least 81% of resources to be allocated to projects (via action grants or financial instruments)
  - At least 55% of resources allocated in the **Environment sub-programme** to projects shall be allocated to **projects** supporting the conservation of **nature and biodiversity**; these include projects under information and governance targeting nature or biodiversity
  - 30% ceiling of the budget dedicated to projects (ie 30% of the 81%) for **Integrated Projects**

- Methodology for Selection
- Indicative Timetable for calls for proposals
3. Multi Annual Work Programmes

- Project topics and targets (for Environment)
  - **Topics are not exhaustive**: a proposal may be submitted even if it falls outside the topics (but it must fall within the Priority Areas indicated in the Regulation).
  - **Limitations**: Integrated Projects primarily in areas referred to by the LIFE Regulation, **thematic priorities provided in Annex III** in the Regulation (for nature, biodiversity, water, waste, resource efficiency, environment and health, air quality and emissions and information and governance but **ONLY for the ENV sub-programme**).

- For four years (2014-2017) and three years (2018-2020) ensuring **stability** for potential applicants.
4. Calendar

**LIFE Regulation:**
- Nov 21, 2013 – Regulation adopted by the European Parliament
- Entry into force 1 January 2014

**Multi-Annual Work Programme:**
- 2-day consultation organised on 24-25 October to discuss drafting of the Multi-Annual Work Programme
- Target: to adopt the work programme in February 2014 to be able to launch the call for proposals by May 2014

**Call for Proposals:**
- Drafting of application guides started
- Information sessions in spring 2014 *(March / April?)*
- Target: launch May or June 2014
LIFE Call 2014 Indicative timetable

**Traditional projects**
- Call published: May 2014
- Submission: Oct. 2014
- Grants signed: July 2015
- Reserve list grants signed: Oct/Dec 2015

**Integrated projects**
- Call published: May 2014
- Submission concept note: Oct. 2014
- Submission full proposal: Apr. 2015
- Grants signed: Sept 2015
- Unused budget transferred to reserve traditional projects: Sept. 2015
More information at

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/beyond2013.htm