

Who can take part in a LIFE project?

Any public or private body established in the EU may benefit from LIFE as a coordinating or associated beneficiary. It is possible to be a coordinating beneficiary if you are established outside the EU, but only if your country has established a specific agreement with the EU (see article 5 of the LIFE Regulation). Legal entities outside the EU may only be associated beneficiaries if the coordinating beneficiary is based in the EU and the activities for which they are responsible taking place outside the EU are necessary to achieve EU environmental / climate objectives and to ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out inside the EU (see article 6).

Where will the LIFE money go?

Of the €3.46 billion allocated to LIFE, €2.59 billion are for the Environment sub-programme, and €0.86 billion are for the Climate Action sub-programme. At least €2.8 billion (81% of the total budget) are earmarked for LIFE projects financed through action grants or innovative financial instruments. About €0.7 billion will go to integrated projects. At least 55% of the budgetary resources allocated to projects supported through action grants under the sub-programme for Environment will be used for projects supporting the conservation of nature and biodiversity. A maximum of €0.62 billion will be used directly by DG Environment and DG Climate Action for policy development and operating grants.

The amounts available for projects for four years are fixed in the LIFE multi-annual work programme for 2014-2017. Indicative allocations for each Member State will continue to be applied for all project types (except integrated projects) selected under the Environment sub-programme until 2017, after which selection will be based only on merit.

Who manages LIFE?

The European Commission (DG Environment and DG Climate Action) manages the LIFE Programme. The Commission has delegated the implementation of many components of the LIFE Programme to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). External selection, monitoring and communication teams provide assistance to the Commission and EASME. The European Investment Bank will manage the two new financial instruments (NCFF and PF4EE).

How can I learn more about LIFE?

Read this leaflet.

Visit the LIFE web-site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/life>.

Discover each LIFE project:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm>

Discover LIFE by country:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/countries/index.htm>

Read the LIFE Regulation:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/index.htm#life2014>

Read the LIFE Multi-Annual Work Programme:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/about/index.htm#mawp>

Contact your National Contact Point:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/contact/nationalcontact/index.htm>

Contact EASME:

easme-life@ec.europa.eu

Contact the European Commission:

env-life@ec.europa.eu; clima-life@ec.europa.eu

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The LIFE Programme

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action, providing €3.46 billion of support from 2014-2020.

ec.europa.eu/life



Environment

A new LIFE Programme

After more than 22 years, €3.4 billion and 4 170 LIFE projects, the EU's financial instrument for the environment continues to co-finance nature conservation, environmental and climate action projects.

A bigger programme

The LIFE budget for the period 2014-2020 is higher than ever before: €3.46 billion.

An evolving programme

In addition to the traditional LIFE projects, there are now four new types of projects (integrated, technical assistance, capacity-building, preparatory) and two financial instruments (Natural Capital Financing Facility, Private Financing for Energy Efficiency).

Get involved - submit a LIFE proposal!

Every year there is a call for project proposals:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life.htm>



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**LIFE's two sub-programmes:
Environment and Climate Action**

The Environment sub-programme has three priority areas:

The **Environment and Resource Efficiency** priority area will develop, test and demonstrate approaches, best practices, solutions and integrated approaches to environmental challenges, as well as improving the related knowledge base.

The **Nature and Biodiversity** priority area will develop, test and demonstrate best practices, solutions and integrated approaches to contribute to the development and implementation of nature and biodiversity policy and legislation, as well as improving the related knowledge base.

The **Environmental Governance and Information** priority area will promote awareness-raising on environmental matters, support the communication, management and dissemination of environmental information, and promote better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement.



The Climate Action sub-programme has three priority areas:

The **Climate Change Mitigation** priority area will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, notably by contributing to the implementation and development of related policy and legislation, improving the knowledge base, developing integrated approaches, and developing and demonstrating innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments.

The **Climate Change Adaptation** priority area will support efforts to increase resilience to climate change, notably by contributing to the implementation and development of related policy and legislation, improving the knowledge base, developing integrated approaches, and developing and demonstrating innovative technologies, systems, methods and instruments.

The **Climate Governance and Information** priority area will promote awareness-raising on climate matters, support the communication, management and dissemination of climate information, promote more effective compliance with climate legislation and promote better climate governance by broadening stakeholder involvement.



An expanded range of LIFE projects

LIFE's universally-acknowledged success is based on "traditional" LIFE Nature, Biodiversity, Environment and Information projects. These best practice, demonstration, pilot and awareness-raising projects continue, but are now accompanied by a whole new sub-programme for climate action, four new types of projects (integrated, technical assistance, capacity-building, preparatory) and two financial instruments (Natural Capital Financing Facility, Private Financing for Energy Efficiency).

Best practice projects apply appropriate, cost-effective and state-of-the-art techniques, methods and approaches taking into account the specific context of the project.

Demonstration projects put into practice, test, evaluate and disseminate actions, methodologies or approaches that are new or unknown in the specific context of the project, such as the geographical, ecological, socio-economic context, and that could be applied elsewhere in similar circumstances.

Pilot projects apply a technique or method that has not been applied or tested before, or elsewhere, that offer potential environmental or climate advantages compared to current best practice and that can subsequently be applied on a larger scale to similar situations.

Information, awareness and dissemination projects support communication, dissemination of information and awareness-raising for Environment and Climate Action.

The maximum co-financing rate (**MCR**) for these first four types of projects is 60% for the period 2014-2017 and 55% for 2018-2020. LIFE Nature and Biodiversity projects, however have a MCR of 60% for the entire period 2014-2020, and up to 75% if they target priority species or habitats.

Integrated projects implement on a large territorial scale (regional, multi-regional, national, trans-national), environmental or climate plans or strategies required by specific Union environmental or climate legislation, primarily in the areas of nature, water, waste, air and climate change mitigation and adaptation. They ensure involvement of stakeholders and promote the coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other relevant Union, national or private funding source. MCR = 60%.

Technical assistance projects provide action grants to help applicants prepare integrated projects. MCR = 60%.

Capacity-building projects provide action grants to enable Member States to participate more effectively in the LIFE Programme. MCR = 100%.

Preparatory projects support specific needs for the development and implementation of Union environmental or climate policy and legislation. MCR = 60%.

Operating grants support operational and administrative costs of non-profit making organisations active in the field of the environment or climate action at EU level. MCR = 70%.

The **Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF)** is a new financial instrument which will provide financing opportunities in the form of loans or equity investments for revenue-generating or cost-saving pilot projects promoting the preservation of natural capital, including climate change adaptation projects.

Private Finance for Energy Efficiency instruments (PF4EE) is a new financial instrument which will provide loans for investments in energy efficiency projects prioritised by National Energy Efficiency Action Plans.

