Involving civil society in the EU policy process

**LIFE support for environmental NGOs in 2012**
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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Foreword

Founded in 1992, LIFE is the EU’s financial instrument for the environment. The current phase of the programme, LIFE+, runs from 2007-2013 and has a budget of €2.143 billion. Though at least 78% of the LIFE+ budget is dedicated to funding the actions of projects, LIFE+ also supports the activities of EU-level environmental NGOs through the competitive and transparent awarding of annual operating grants.

Specifically, the LIFE+ Regulation provides funding for “operational activities of NGOs that are primarily active in protecting and enhancing the environment at European level and involved in the development and implementation of Community policy and legislation” (Annex 1 to the Regulation). The number of NGOs funded each year varies according to the quality of the applications, the amounts applied for and the total budget available. Usually around 30 NGOs are supported by LIFE funding each year.

This funding aims to strengthen the participation of NGOs in environmental policy-making and implementation. An open and wide-ranging dialogue with all stakeholders is vital to the success of the process, and it is important that NGOs take part as they are able to convey public concerns about the environment and balance the interests of other actors.

European NGOs also aid the process by participating in preparatory work and expert groups, conducting research studies and raising awareness.

The operating grants are awarded on a yearly basis with calls for proposals published on the DG Environment web page. The applications are evaluated and ranked on the extent to which the NGOs are able to contribute to priority EU policy areas. Environmental NGOs must be non-profit making, independent and active at a European level with members in at least three EU Member States.

This is the first time a brochure has showcased examples of activities carried out by environmental NGOs receiving the LIFE operating grants. This brochure gives a broad overview of the contributions made by the 31 NGOs funded during 2012, including more in-depth descriptions of the activities carried out by four NGOs in different policy areas.
INTRODUCTION

Shaping and carrying out EU environmental policy

LIFE operating grants to NGOs supported a wide range of activities in 2012, enabling them to fulfil their role as facilitators of EU policy implementation as well as being key contributors to the policy-making process.

For a significant number of environmental NGOs, LIFE operating grants are crucial to ensure that they are able to contribute to EU policy. In 2012, a total of 31 NGOs received grants amounting to €9 million.

The Commission awards these grants based on the policy relevance of the NGOs’ proposals. It assesses their potential impact on shaping and implementing policy in the key areas of environmental and climate policies – for example, climate change, nature and biodiversity, environment and health, natural resources and waste, and horizontal or cross-cutting issues.

In 2012, proposals focused heavily on cross-cutting issues as well as those relating to climate change. Interestingly, the work on natural resources and waste has increased in 2012 compared to the previous year’s figures.

NGOs supported by the programme are very diverse in size, thematic focus and geographical coverage. Some figures give a picture of the ‘average’ NGO.

The average NGO supported by LIFE is based in Brussels and has around 16 permanent staff members. It has a network of 50 to 60 member organisations, most of which are located in EU Member States – on average, the network stretches over 15 European countries. The extent of an NGO’s network is an important funding consideration, given that it is hoped that the NGO will contribute to policy implementation in Member States and involve stakeholders at a national and local level. Many of the NGOs emphasise the value of the support that they can draw from their network of members.

In 2012, the average LIFE-funded NGO also participated in 11 expert groups, sent out 48 press releases and submitted
30 documents (positions papers, policy briefings etc.) to EU institutions. It carried out such activities in 2012 through an overall budget of around €730 000, of which typically 45% was provided by LIFE. However, this figure varies considerably from one NGO to another, ranging from 10 to 70%.

**Range of activities**

The aim of this brochure is to illustrate the breadth and value of the activities supported by the NGO funding aspect of the LIFE Programme. Beneficiaries cover a wide range of policy issues and with LIFE support help with the practical implementation of EU policy. They also play a key role in bringing citizens into the environmental policy-making process.

This brochure profiles the activities of four environmental NGOs, each with its own particular environmental focus. They were chosen in order to provide an overview of the type of actions that LIFE supports through this strand of the programme.

Activities such as engaging in policy reviews and raising awareness and support for the need to revise EU legislation are common to many NGOs. For example, through LIFE support Bankwatch was able to play an active role in the legislative process on the future EU Cohesion Policy. The NGO’s goal to increase investment in low-carbon alternatives to fossil fuels was achieved through the doubling of the share of the budget from this funding source.

One of the main focuses of another NGO, The European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism, was permanent grasslands. Through LIFE support, it raised awareness on the need to adapt the mechanisms of the Common Agricultural Policy and highlighted the high value of pastures and meadows.

LIFE funds have also facilitated the development of partnerships on particular target issues. On the issue of EU funding, for example, Friends of the Earth Europe (an NGO that received LIFE funding and is featured in this brochure) teamed up with CEE Bankwatch Network and WWF European Policy Office on the ‘Well Spent’ campaign. The purpose of this campaign was to promote EU-funded investments that foster sustainable European development.

Another good example of the type of collaborations and coalitions that LIFE funding can foster is the co-operation that was established between the European Environmental Bureau, (another NGO funded under the LIFE programme in 2012) and Justice and Environment, which is also featured in this brochure. The two NGOs organised a special campaign day in Brussels on the new draft text of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive.

Finding experienced partners allows NGOs to learn from one another and to provide capacities and expertise where it might be lacking individually. Additionally, CAN-Europe demonstrated the value of their outreach to ‘allies’ in the business sector in order to obtain their goals.

Other typical activities include highlighting non-compliance with EU legislation, the production of education materials, staff training, network capacity building, strategy development and publicity management. Network development, in particular, increases an organisation’s capacity to help shape and implement policy.

Through these activities supported by the LIFE+ NGO Operating Grant scheme, the NGOs have shown that they are able to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders. In this way, they are fulfilling the Commission’s wish to boost the involvement of civil society in the legislative process. The NGO community reports that the LIFE funding is vitally important for it to play an effective part in EU environmental policy debate and in policy implementation.

**NGOs are promoting more investment to low-carbon alternatives to fossil fuels**

**A coalition of NGOs carried out the ‘Well Spent’ campaign to highlight the need for the EU to invest in sustainable development**
Describing itself as the ‘largest grassroots environmental network in Europe’, Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE) is challenging the current model of economic and corporate globalisation.

FoEE unites thousands of local groups in more than 30 national organisations with the aim of promoting environmentally sustainable and socially just societies.

Its Brussels office has a dual function: to be involved in the EU legislative process through campaigning and advocacy; and to organise events and support its member network. The role of the operating grant is “really huge”, says Magda Stoczkiewicz, director of FoEE. “This sum of money allows us to have a really well-functioning office, to have the media and the communication people that work with us, and to support the administrative and governance structures, such as [the] annual general meeting of our members and meetings of our executive committee.”

But Ms Stoczkiewicz is eager to emphasise that the grant not only supports operating costs (travel to meetings etc.) but it also covers a portion of the NGO’s activities. “We bring the matching funds (other funds that are not EU funds) that allow us to have a bigger overall budget,” she explains.

One area that FoEE has particularly focused on in recent years is the Energy Efficiency Directive. In close collaboration with Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe), another environmental NGO supported by the LIFE+ funding, the NGO campaigned for mandatory targets to be included in the directive. While this aim was not fully achieved, Ms Stoczkiewicz says that the NGO’s advocacy work was essential. “I think that we brought a lot of pressure on the different actors, who were discussing the legislation, to make sure that at least it’s as strong as possible.”

As well as sending background papers to the European Commission and the European Parliament, FoEE created an ‘energy savings man’ to help visualise the idea of energy efficiency. The character was used to highlight the economic and environmental benefits associated with the issue.

FoEE also joined the Coalition for Energy Savings, a group of NGOs and industry representatives that campaigned for a tough energy saving target. “We were trying to broaden the space for discussions and for agreements…I think that this is a good example of how we try to work: we use these different tools to be part of the debate, to push the debate to a more ambitious environmental end,” affirms Ms Stoczkiewicz.

The NGO is also supporting the efforts of its local groups to put pressure on national governments on this issue. While FoEE considers the directive to be a step in the right direction, it believes it is not strong enough to meet the EU’s savings target of 20% by 2020. The new legislation sets a binding 1.5% annual energy savings targets covering all energy consumption in the EU except that of transport.

Working in coalitions, such as the one on energy savings, is a typical way for FoEE to proceed. “We believe that on our own we may not be strong enough. In these coalitions, we have a clear division of tasks and responsibilities. It’s clear that one organisation is doing more of a certain type
of task and the other is doing something else...In the energy efficiency coalition, we were the ones behind the more creative actions and the more visual tools,” Ms Stoczkiewicz explains.

Improving EU funding

On the issue of EU funding, FoEE worked with CEE Bankwatch Network and WWF European Policy Office on the ‘Well Spent’ campaign to promote EU-funded investments that foster sustainable European development. The joint campaign pushed for “stronger notions of funding for climate and biodiversity”, says Ms Stoczkiewicz. “Last year, we changed the dynamic a bit, and we produced a publication and a video on ‘positive’ projects and how even small amounts of EU money can bring about a sustainable transformation of communities. We showed that projects can go much more into environmentally sustainable approaches – and can create jobs,” she says.

FoEE was also active in the Brussels EU Funds Coalition, helping shape future cohesion policy regulations. For example, it lobbied for an end to fossil fuel subsidies and in July 2012 the REGI committee of the European Parliament excluded fossil fuel infrastructure from regional development funds.

Another key issue for FoEE is food speculation. “We believe it’s wrong for the markets to speculate on everything and create bubbles. Food [speculation] has a huge impact on people and the environment. Food that is mainly produced as a commodity to be traded and speculated upon has a very particular impact on the environment,” argues Ms Stoczkiewicz.

The financial tools used in food speculation are addressed by the EU’s Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (MiFID), and the NGO tried to explain this complex piece of legislation in a way that “connects with people”. “We used the internet to get people in our network and other coalitions to spread the news and ask people to sign petitions...We managed to talk to the rapporteurs [of the European Parliament] that were dealing with that [the revision of the directive] and we managed to bring more understanding of what’s at stake and that people are concerned about it,” she adds.

Finally, the LIFE programme grant has also supported some of the NGO’s activities in the area of resource use. FoEE is campaigning for better and more comprehensive measurement of resource use in Europe. “We need to measure water use and greenhouse gas emissions as well as land use and material use – not only in production in Europe but also from consumed goods, including those imported. For ex. we import a lot of water in the products that we buy outside EU borders and this is all connected to the limited resources of the planet,” says Ms Stoczkiewicz.

FoEE is part of the European Resource Efficiency Platform that comprises Members of the European Parliament, NGOs, business leaders and advisors on the legislative steps.

*Energy savings man* brought to life the energy efficiency argument

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**Organisation:** Friends of the Earth Europe  
**Address:** Rue d’Edimbourg 26,  
1050 Bruxelles, Belgium  
**Website:** www.foeeurope.org  
**Amount awarded:** €733,162  
**EU contribution (%):** 53,72
Promoting better health through environmental policy

“We can’t have healthy people on a sick planet,” says Génon Jensen, founder and executive director of the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), a non governmental organisation addressing how the environment affects health in the European Union.

It’s so obvious but it is not always central to policy thinking. This public health framework of environmental prevention through better laws and policies is one of the main motivations behind our organisation,” she explains.

Supported by more than 65 member organisations, HEAL demonstrates how policy changes can help protect health and enhance quality of life. It focuses its activities in Brussels, bringing independent expertise and scientific evidence from the health community to the different decision-making processes. This covers a wide variety of issues including: environmental prevention of chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes and obesity; hazardous chemicals such as pesticides and biocides; climate change and energy; and air quality.

In cooperation with its members – including health professionals, doctors, nurses, cancer and asthma groups, and public health research institutes and scientists – HEAL pools this expertise and uses it as a basis for advocacy with the European Institutions and for bringing the health perspective to key meetings. Part of its mission is to ensure that policy-relevant material, including scientific evidence and economic costs, gets to the right policy makers at the right time – that is, when they are considering a specific dossier. At the same time, it acts as a ‘watchdog’ ensuring this information is accessible to stakeholders and the public.

‘Key ingredient’

In March 2012, HEAL received 12 month’s LIFE+ funding for its main research, information, advocacy, monitoring and campaign activities. According to Ms Jensen a “key ingredient” of LIFE+ is that (unlike, for instance, project funding) this core funding allows a not-for-profit organisation such as HEAL, which represents the views of medical and health experts and public interest groups, to allocate adequate resources to keep proper track on what is happening in the EU institutions in Brussels. “This is vital if we want to make an impact on EU policies that are being developed, implemented or enforced,” she says.

Among several highlights, she cites HEAL’s efforts to ensure that certain of its environmental health priorities (for example, the reduction of exposure to air pollution indoors and to endocrine disrupting chemicals, especially early in life) were included in the recently adopted new EU roadmap, the 7th EU Environment Action Programme.

Other notable achievements were the creation of Europe’s first Health and Environment Film Prize and, in the field of ‘climate and energy’, research that quantifies the significant health impacts and costs of coal power generation in Europe – data that is useful for national and EU policy makers.

The launch of an international film prize (see box) was an area where her organisation was able to show a “very high impact”, she says, by connecting abstract EU policy developments with ordinary cinema-going members of the public. The film festival, held in Paris, attracted a record audience of more than 14,000 and HEAL’s activities, via its French members, included producing an information brochure and, moreover, hosting a public debate on the environmental health issues raised by each of the nominated films in the category.

“The exciting thing about the film is that it brings out the storyline on how our environment affects our health, which
is useful for the experts who are giving evidence to the European Commission, the Parliament, or the politicians," she says, adding: "It also highlights the ordinary people who are affected by the decisions or policies that Parliament makes."

**Awarded film**

The winning film has gone on to be shown at 17 other international film festivals. Thanks to the success of this first initiative, HEAL has committed to once again sponsoring the prize at the next International Environmental Film Festival (in February 2014). A major coup for the publicists is an entry in next year’s health and the environment category from American actor and film maker, Sean Penn.

Another important area concerns raising awareness of the health effects of exposure to certain chemicals, especially endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs). These include bisphenol A and phthalates, which are found in some plastics. According to Ms Jensen, this is an area where there is "considerable interest" among health experts and public interest groups and from the general public. Here, she explains, HEAL coordinates with an informal coalition of NGOs sharing information and campaigning to ensure the latest scientific knowledge from EU research projects, conference presentations and technical journals is disseminated to national and EU policy makers in a format that is easily accessible for them.

For example, during 2012, HEAL organised a breakfast meeting with an expert scientist on EDCs in the European Parliament. She warned the Members of the European Parliament about the dangers of phthalates and called on regulators to better protect consumers against these "hidden chemicals". HEAL has also promoted new research on links between chemical contaminants and the risk for obesity and diabetes. For the latter, the HEAL network worked together with UK organisation CHEM Trust, which commissioned a scientific review on this theme. HEAL and CHEM Trust’s public information brochure explained the findings and put them into an EU context. The brochure, "Chemicals in our food and consumer products – A missing link in the epidemics of obesity and diabetes?" was available in several language versions and was widely promoted to policy makers, health and environment groups and the media. Since its launch, in June 2012, the media coverage has been "incredible" she says, adding that its Brussels-based secretariat team is still receiving regular media requests about the issue. To date, it has been featured more than 175 times in newspapers, journals, radio and TV stations in 14 European countries.

Another high impact area concerns the NGOs efforts to share evidence that phasing out fossil fuels can prevent climate change impacts and promote health. These were published in HEAL’s report, ‘The Unpaid Health Bill, How coal power plants make us sick’. For this, a technical report was commissioned that for the first time, quantifies the health impacts of coal power plants in Europe. "This health bill reaches up to €42.8 billion in the EU every year," she says, noting that this is just the air pollution impacts from coal-fired plants, taking into account premature deaths, the figures for hospital admissions and loss of days of work through ill-health, medication costs, healthcare visits and so on.

As well as receiving "extensive media coverage" the study results, published in March 2013, in six EU languages, have also helped national politicians to make the case for phasing out coal power and moving to cleaner energy sources. "The data is country specific so it is very topical and relevant for Member States when considering their energy costs for the future, as well as the health benefits and cost savings," she says.

**Health & Environment film prize**

Supported by LIFE+, HEAL launched a prize for the best health and environment film, as part of the 30th International Environmental Film Festival (FIFE) in Paris. US film maker Ed Brown received the award on 26 February, 2013, for his documentary ‘Unacceptable levels’ which addresses the theme of chemicals that are invading our environment and puts practical questions to the audience about these substances and where they are found.
Towards greater environmental justice and liability

Justice & Environment (J&E), a European network of environmental law organisations, aims to improve legislation and implementation of environmental law on a national and EU level.

The network consists of organisations from 12 countries that are focused on environmental law. These organisations come together under J&E to combine their “national experience and knowledge and to try to influence the EU processes”, explains Csaba Kiss, the NGO’s co-ordinator. “We have a previous life and history on the national level, and we come together to replicate this on the EU level.”

A good example of this working can be found in the area of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive, which is currently being revised. “We organised a day together with EEB [the European Environmental Bureau, another NGO funded under the LIFE programme in 2012] in Brussels last November on the new draft text of the EIA Directive. We also followed the legislative process, like the webcast on the European Parliament session.” Moreover, J&E produced opinion papers and sent them to the Environmental Committee of the European Parliament and to all the other Members of the European Parliament as well as the Environment Commissioner.

While J&E does not have an office in Brussels, it has a valuable role to play in coalitions, bringing legal expertise that may be lacking among other NGOs – i.e. the Green 10 group of environmental NGOs working at EU level. “We have to compensate for our not being in Brussels by offering substantial legal analysis. For this reason, I think that our inputs are quite valuable. At least the other NGOs value it quite highly,” Dr Kiss says.

Nevertheless, to make sure that its “voice is heard in Brussels”, J&E has applied to be included in a selection of expert groups of the Commission. According to Dr Kiss, 10 of the 15 to which it applied responded that they were not open to NGO involvement, and of the five that were open three groups invited the NGO to participate in meetings or in fact involved J&E into its work without formal invitation: one on the EIA, one on environmental liability and one on Aarhus Convention. “It mostly works on good personal relationships and previous experience of producing good output that they can use...so then they say ‘okay maybe it is worth involving this group in the network’,” explains Dr Kiss.

Targeting activities

The operational grant of the LIFE+ programme covers the organisational costs of the NGO – e.g. the salary of the financial manager, the co-ordinator and some members of the board, as well as the costs of hiring a communications consultant and a fundraiser. “It also pays for some meetings in Brussels, cooperation with the EEB or the FoEE [Friends of the Earth Europe], and our own Annual General Meetings and some expert meetings,” Dr Kiss adds.

A third output covered by the LIFE+ grant is legal analysis. The money is used to pay national legal experts in its 12 countries to analyse the transposition and implementation of EU legislation. Using such national case studies, the NGO then draws up position papers and makes suggestions to the Commission for improving the situation.
“My colleague just finished an analysis of six countries on how much access to justice there is on land use planning decisions, and we sent it to United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) that published it on the Aarhus Clearinghouse website. To have our findings in the UN is very prestigious for us,” Dr Kiss says.

In recent years, J&E has narrowed the focus of its work programme. “Back in 2006 when we first got funding from LIFE+, we selected six or seven topic areas, and we did a little bit on each of them – a little analysis here, a case study there. Then we realised that it’s much more useful to focus on less and to go more deeply into the topics,” explains Dr Kiss.

This change of emphasis followed a year (2010), when the NGO didn’t receive funding from LIFE+. It then decided that it wasn’t going to “overpromise” what it would do, but rather select four topics where it believed it could make a difference: access to justice; environmental impact assessment; environmental liability; and air, noise and waste.

The NGO also learned the importance of communicating with the Commission, in order to ensure that its analyses are ready and available when needed for the policy process. “This is why we wanted to be part of the expert groups so we can let them know that while, for example, they’re working on shale gas issues, we’re also working on shale gas,” Dr Kiss says.

In 2012, J&E also focused on improving its operational practices. Its members are now more aware of their role in the network and what they can expect from it – i.e. visibility in Brussels, comparative information from other countries etc. – according to Dr Kiss.

Central to the success of J&E, and its cooperation with other green NGOs in Brussels or at a national level, is its ability to quickly respond to demands. “Normally, the EEB asks for information on this or that and says that it needs it in two days from at least ten countries. And if we can live up to this expectation and we can produce the information, then the EEB says okay, this is a reliable group – and if we don’t, then they say well maybe next time we’re not going to ask them,” explains Dr Kiss.

“I think that last year’s joint event on the European Environmental Impact Assessment recast with the EEB was a good example of this cooperation,” he adds.

The NGO also provided input for the regulatory impact assessment ahead of the newly opened drafting of the Access to Justice Directive. “We produced in a week 20 case studies on how aspects of access to justice work and we submitted them to the Commission, as input to the analysis.”

Next year, J&E hopes to streamline its focus even more and focus on three issues: energy and climate change; the Aarhus Convention (the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters); and environmental liability.
Seas at Risk (SAR) is a network of non-governmental environmental organisations working to protect and restore the marine environment of European seas and the wider Northeast Atlantic.

The NGO sees its principal function as providing a “technical and political platform” for its 20 member organisations in 14 countries. It uses this membership base and expertise to promote environmentally sound policies within the EU institutions and international organisations dealing with marine issues.

SAR is funded both by membership fees and grants from external bodies, including the European Union LIFE+ programme. Its Brussels office provides two functions: to be involved in the EU legislative processes through advocacy and campaigning and to help organise events and support its member network.

Monica Verbeek, SAR’s executive director, together with Ann Dom, assistant director, was responsible for coordinating activities during the 2012 LIFE+ funding period.

According to Ms Dom this work typically involves participating in policy initiatives by attending relevant meetings, responding to stakeholder consultations and preparing position papers and briefings to the decision-makers. At the same time, SAR works with its members to provide information on marine issues at the national level. In some instances, it also cooperates with other environmental NGO networks to enhance their influence on policy decisions. For example, SAR is co-founder and part of the steering group for the OCEAN12 coalition of more than 170 NGOs that was formed to influence the reform of the EU Common Fisheries Policy.

SAR has been heavily involved in the CFP reform process since it was launched in 2008. In 2012 with the OCEAN2012 coalition, however, attention was mainly focused on the European Parliament, through position papers and submissions and participation in events and meetings. A main achievement was the support of the Environment and Fisheries’ committees of the European Parliament for several of the SAR and OCEAN2012 policy priorities, including a goal for the sustainable fishing of EU fish stocks by 2015.

Following on from this focus, in May 2013, the European Parliament reached agreement on the CFP reforms – committing to rebuild fish stocks in the EU with legally binding targets to end overfishing and reduce bycatch and discarding. “As a coalition we feel there are many positive points in the new agreement, which reflect the demands of NGOs,” says Ms Dom. “Overall, it has shown that our advocacy and campaigning work, which has been consistent for a number of years, has been effective.”

The LIFE+ grant accounts for just over a fifth of SAR’s annual operating budget. But Ms Dom emphasises that this is “very important” funding, as it is core funding rather than linked to any particular project: “This allows us to also address areas for which we don’t have other funding yet, but which we feel are important,” she explains. For example, a part of the LIFE+ funding was used to carry out some development work on marine aquaculture – an area that until recently, she says, NGOs have largely ignored. Marine aquaculture is a rapidly growing industry providing a large proportion of the total landings of fish and seafood in Europe. But it also has serious ecological consequences as it contributes to overfishing and damage to coastal habitats.
As part of its activities in this field, SAR is leading a group of NGOs, including individual SAR member organisations and also other NGO networks such as WWF and Birdlife International, which are seeking to establish a joint position on sustainable aquaculture.

Proposal success

Another focus of activity concerns the proposed new EU regulation for the management of deep sea fisheries in Europe and in the Northeast Atlantic. Due to its political sensitivity, the review process has been delayed several times, which has made it difficult to keep up the pressure. But in 2012, as part of another NGO network, the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, SAR continued working at all levels of engagement in the process through presentations, position papers, and meetings with officials including Maria Damanaki, Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and Janez Potočnik, the Environment Commissioner. This culminated in March 2013 with the publication of an ambitious Commission proposal for the new regulation. The proposal included several of the policy objectives that the NGOs had promoted in order to minimise the impact of the new regulation, most importantly the phasing out of deep sea bottom trawling and gillnetting.

While SAR says it was very happy with the Commission’s proposal, the next stage was the necessary approval by the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament. Unfortunately, in its meeting of 4 November 2013, the committee voted for a series of amendments to the proposal, which means both gains and losses for the NGOs. Some measures that would help to protect deep sea ecosystems, such as corals, sponges and seamounts, have been accepted, while others, such as the phasing out of deep sea bottom trawling and gillnetting, have been rejected.

The NGO remains undeterred. “This is just one step in the legislative process...as a part of the deep sea coalition, we will continue to follow the process and step up our activity towards a plenary vote in the European Parliament,” says Ms Dom. The vote was scheduled for December 2013 at the time of this publication.

Finally, an area that she says “really took off” during 2012 was SAR’s focus on marine litter, in particular on raising awareness about the importance of setting ambitious marine litter reduction targets across Europe. For example, SAR published a joint NGO guidance document on target setting that was distributed across its network. It also promoted the findings of the guidance document at public events and international forums throughout the year. Its European campaign gained considerable media coverage both from Brussels-based media and across Europe.
List of NGOs funded in 2012


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation awarded</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>LIFE grant €</th>
<th>% of total NGO annual budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BANKWATCH Central and Eastern European Bankwatch Network</td>
<td>Na Rozcesti 6, 190 00 Prague, Czech Republic</td>
<td>341.884</td>
<td>61,54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEF Baltic Environmental Forum</td>
<td>Osterstrasse 58, 20259 Hamburg, Germany</td>
<td>180.200</td>
<td>67,28%</td>
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<td>BIRDLIFE Europe</td>
<td>Avenue de la Toison d’Or 67, 1060 Bruxelles, Belgium</td>
<td>345.082</td>
<td>28,75%</td>
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<td>CAN-EUROPE Climate Action Network Europe</td>
<td>Rue d’Edimbourg 26, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium</td>
<td>234.046</td>
<td>25,63%</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEEWeb for Biodiversity</td>
<td>Széher ut 40, 1021 Budapest, Hungary</td>
<td>211.734</td>
<td>69,93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDP Carbon Disclosure Project</td>
<td>Reinhardstrasse 14, 10117 Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>413.397</td>
<td>51,77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECF European Cyclists Federation</td>
<td>Rue Franklin 28, 1000 Brussels, Belgium</td>
<td>338.523</td>
<td>34,10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECNC European Centre for Nature Conservation</td>
<td>Reiteplein 3, 5000 LG Tilburg The Netherlands</td>
<td>335.240</td>
<td>67,59%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECOS European Environmental Citizens’ Organisation for Standardisation</td>
<td>Rue d’Edimbourg 26, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium</td>
<td>167.045</td>
<td>46,20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEB European Environmental Bureau</td>
<td>Boulevard de Waterloo 34, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium</td>
<td>810.900</td>
<td>39,20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>EFNCP European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism</td>
<td>5/8 Eilishadder, Culnancnoc, IV51 9JE Portree, United Kingdom</td>
<td>473.746</td>
<td>69,96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUCC The Coastal Union</td>
<td>Breestraat 89a, 2301EE Leiden, The Netherlands</td>
<td>136.524</td>
<td>42,95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>EUROSITE</td>
<td>Luijbenstraat 3, 5211 BR ’s-Hertogenbosch, The Nederlands</td>
<td>59.515</td>
<td>69,80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EWA European Water Association</td>
<td>Theodor-Heuss-Allee 17, 53773 Hennef, Germany</td>
<td>90.100</td>
<td>37,17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EWP European Water Partnership</td>
<td>Avenue de Tervuren 168-15, B 1150, Brussels, Belgium</td>
<td>397.113</td>
<td>67,72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EWLA Eurogroup for Wildlife and Laboratory Animals</td>
<td>Rue des Patriotes 6, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium</td>
<td>180.200</td>
<td>38,08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACE Federation of Association for Hunting and Conservation of the EU</td>
<td>82 Rue F. Pelletier, 1030 Brussels, Belgium</td>
<td>144.160</td>
<td>26,96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOEE Friends of the Earth Europe</td>
<td>Groenesteeg 65, 2312 SP Leiden, The Netherlands</td>
<td>111.920</td>
<td>10,27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEAL Health and Environment Alliance Network</td>
<td>Boulevard Charlemagne 28, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium</td>
<td>342.109</td>
<td>67,80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFN International Friends of Nature</td>
<td>Diefenbachgasse 36/3, 1150 Vienna, Austria</td>
<td>230.428</td>
<td>44,54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFOAM International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements EU Group</td>
<td>Rue du Commerce 124, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium</td>
<td>226.940</td>
<td>36,59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENT European Network of Environmental Law Organisations</td>
<td>Dvorakova 13, 60200 Brno, Czech Republic</td>
<td>167.609</td>
<td>67,76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIO-ECSDE Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development</td>
<td>12 Kyrristou str., 10556 Athens, Greece</td>
<td>406.319</td>
<td>66,00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SaR Seas at Risk Federation</td>
<td>Rue d’Edimbourg 26, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium</td>
<td>90.010</td>
<td>26,89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIPBREAKING NGO Platform on Responsible Shipbreaking</td>
<td>Rue de la Linière, 11 B-1060 Brussels, Belgium</td>
<td>164.097</td>
<td>57,50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLOW FOOD</td>
<td>Piazza XX Settembre 5, 12042 Bra (CN), Italy</td>
<td>414.460</td>
<td>29,72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T&amp;IE European Federation for Transport and Environment</td>
<td>Rue d’Edimbourg 26, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium</td>
<td>235.161</td>
<td>19,22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WECF Women in Europe for a Common Future</td>
<td>Biltstraat 445 PO Box 13047, 3572 AW Utrecht, The Netherlands</td>
<td>277.295</td>
<td>29,85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWF-DCP International - Danube Carpathian Programme</td>
<td>Biltstraat 445 PO Box 13047, 3572 AW Utrecht, The Netherlands</td>
<td>180.738</td>
<td>18,92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WWF-EPO European Policy Office</td>
<td>Avenue de Tervuren 168, 1150 Bruxelles, Belgium</td>
<td>559.974</td>
<td>15,74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**LIFE thematic brochures**


**Other publications**


A number of printed copies of certain LIFE publications are available and can be ordered free-of-charge at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/order.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/order.htm)
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EU funding available: approximately €2 143 million

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- **Operating grants:** LIFE+ also supports the operations of EU-level environmental NGOs through the competitive and transparent awarding of annual operating grants. This funding aims to strengthen the participation of NGOs in the dialogue process in environmental policy making and in its implementation.

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- [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ngos/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ngos/index_en.htm) (NGOs operating grants)

Contact:


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