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ANNEX II

Work programme for the LIFE programme in the field of Environment:
subprogrammes ‘Nature and Biodiversity’ and ‘Circular Economy and Quality of Life’

I. Introduction
On the basis of the objectives given in Regulation (EU) No 2021/783 of the European
Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and
Climate Action¹, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget
breakdown for years 2021 to 2024 as follows:

a) for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2);
b) for prizes (implemented under direct management) (point 3);
c) for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 4);
d) for actions implemented under indirect management (point 5);
e) for other actions (point 6)

Legal basis:
Regulation (EU) No 2021/783, and in particular Article 8 thereof.

Budget lines:
09 02 01
09 02 02

Objectives pursued:
The present work programme, in accordance with the LIFE Regulation (EU) No 2021/783
and the LIFE Multiannual Work Programme (MAWP) for 2021-2024, pursues the following
objectives:

- to develop, demonstrate, promote and stimulate scale up of innovative techniques,
  methods and approaches (in particular nature-based solutions and ecosystem
  approaches) for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on
  environment and on nature and biodiversity, and to contribute to the knowledge base
  and to the application of best practice, including through the support of the Natura
  2000 network;

- to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the
  relevant Union legislation and policy on environment and on nature and biodiversity,
  including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing
  capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;

- to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related
  solutions/approaches for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy on

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a
Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No
1293/2013, OJ L 172, 17.05.2021, p.53.
environment and on nature and biodiversity, by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

Expected results:
This work programme for 2021-2024 strives for bringing and contributing to the expected results, targets, qualitative and quantitative outcomes of the LIFE MAWP for 2021-2024. More specifically, it focuses on:

- “Space for nature”: to promote and support area-based conservation and restoration (including connectivity). This will involve, among others, restoration, protection and improvement of EU land and water ecosystems in order to provide ecosystem services, in particular air filtration, cooling of heatwaves, water retention, CO2 absorption, non-wood services such as recreational, cultural and social functions;
- “Safeguarding our species”: specific measures targeting specific species and ecosystem/habitats;
- Governance to facilitate behavioural change and/or change in practices and land management, including by supporting the implementation of the European Biodiversity Strategy to 2030\(^2\), to mainstream biodiversity objectives in relevant sectors; to build up the capacity at all levels and to improving the knowledge basis on nature and biodiversity, including for monitoring, accounting and reporting, assessment and ex-post evaluation;
- Circular economy: accelerating the transition towards a circular, climate-neutral sustainable and toxic-free environment, where
  - the value of products, materials and resources is maximised and maintained in the economy for as long as possible,
  - the use of products is sustainable and the generation of waste and
  - the presence of harmful substances is minimised.
  This includes actions on circular design of products, circular production processes and sustainable use and consumption as well as actions to increase repair, reuse, and recycling of materials and products. It includes also actions to support the development of circular economy business models\(^3\) and shorter and more diversified supply chain systems that minimise environmental impact and that reduce external dependency;
- Environment and health: the sustainable management of natural resources and raw materials with a view to eliminating, preventing or minimising the adverse effects and negative impacts on the health and well-being of Union citizens, and improving the quality of their lives, as well as on the environment and its ecosystems, including:
  - Water: the protection and improvement of water quality and the prevention and elimination of water pollutants in view of achieving a good chemical and ecological status of all the Union’s water bodies, including wetlands, the marine

\(^2\) COM(2019)640 final
\(^3\) Business models conceived to keep products and materials in use, by design, for as long as possible to get the maximum value from them.
environment, and the active safeguard of water quantity as well as the reduction of all the related pressures;

- Air and Noise: the protection and improvement of air quality and the prevention and elimination of air pollutants and noise, especially in the urban environment;

- Soil: the restoration, protection and improvement of soil health to function, within natural or managed ecosystem boundaries, to provide ecosystem services, in particular to sustain plant and animal productivity, maintain or enhance water and air quality, and support human health and habitats;

- Chemicals management. A more sustainable use of chemicals substances and mixtures, on their own and in articles and final products (including e.g. pesticides and nanomaterials), better information on chemical content of final products, accidents prevention and related informed purchase, including fostering the interlink of chemicals risk management, circularity of materials and climate change;

- Environment governance projects to incentive behavioural change, which will support the implementation of the European Green Deal⁴, including the European Biodiversity Strategy to 2030, to build up capacities building at all levels, including for civil society, mainstreaming environmental and biodiversity objectives, circular and resource efficiency actions in relevant sectors, improvement of the knowledge basis on nature and biodiversity and environment, including the greening of investments, environment monitoring, accounting and reporting and contributing to policy monitoring, assessment and ex-post evaluation.

2. **Grants implemented under direct management**

The global budgetary envelope for the period 2021-2024 reserved for grants in direct management under this work programme is EUR 1.525.978.416.

2.1. **Action grants for standard action projects**

2.1.1 **Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals**

National, regional and local authorities and private commercial and non-commercial organisations being registered as legal persons in the Member States of the European Union or in one of the Overseas Countries and Territories linked to them.

In line with Article 12 of the LIFE Regulation, legal entities established in a third country associated with the LIFE programme may also participate in these projects. Standard action projects should be exceptionally open to participation of legal entities established in third countries not associated to the LIFE Programme providing that:

- their participation is necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the project to ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out in the Union and

- they bear, in principle, the cost of their participation to the project.

⁴ COM(2019)640 final
In exceptional and duly justified cases, the costs for such actions could be considered eligible for LIFE financial support, when:

- the third country entity acts as a co-beneficiary in a project coordinated by a legal entity established in a Member State or an overseas country or territory linked to it,
- the actions foreseen are essential to ensure reaching the objectives of the project and
- the entity established in the third country not associated to the programme proves not to have the means to cover the cost associated to those actions.

2.1.2. Description of the activities to be funded under the calls for proposals

These projects represent the traditional LIFE projects aimed to:

- develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches;
- contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practice;
- support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;
- catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy related solutions for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.\(^5\)

Section 4.1 of the LIFE MAWP for 2021-2024 provides further information on the type of projects targeted and on their assessment modalities.

The overall list of priority topics is included in the attachment below.

2.1.3. Implementation

The actions will be implemented by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

2.2. ACTION GRANTS FOR STRATEGIC NATURE PROJECTS

2.2.1 Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals

National, regional and local authorities and private commercial and non-commercial organisations being registered as legal persons in the Member States of the European Union.

These project are conceived to support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action in Member States.

The competent authority or entity responsible for the implementation of the plan or strategy targeted by the proposed strategic nature project shall participate in the project as beneficiary (coordinating or associated).

Legal persons established outside the Union may participate in these projects according to Article 12 of the LIFE Regulation, under the same conditions foreseen for the participation of third countries not associated to the programme (cf. paragraph 2.1.1).

\(^5\) Article 2 (4) and Article 3 (2) of the LIFE Regulation
2.2.2. Description of the activities to be funded under the calls for proposals

According to Article 2 (1) of the LIFE Regulation the Strategic Nature Projects (SNAPs) support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action in the Member States, and to mainstream these objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the priority action frameworks established pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC. The SNAPs will target the following strategies and plans:

- The Prioritised Action Framework pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive);
- Other plans or strategies adopted at international, national, regional or multiregional level by nature and biodiversity authorities that implement EU nature and/or biodiversity policy or legislation and include specific and measurable actions, or targets, with a clear timeline and budget.

Section 4.1 of the LIFE MAWP for 2021-2024 provides further information on the type of proposals targeted and on their assessment modalities.

2.2.3. Implementation

The actions will be implemented by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

2.3. ACTION GRANTS FOR STRATEGIC INTEGRATED PROJECTS

2.3.1. Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals

National, regional and local authorities and private commercial and non-commercial organisations registered as legal persons in the Member States of the European Union.

Strategic integrated projects are conceived to implement, on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy legislation or policy of the Union.

The competent authority or entity responsible for the implementation of the plan or strategy targeted by the proposed strategic integrated project shall participate in the project as beneficiary (coordinating or associated).

Legal persons established outside the Union may participate in these projects according to Article 12 of the LIFE Regulation, under the same conditions foreseen for the participation of third countries not associated to the programme (cf. paragraph 2.1.1).

2.3.2. Description of the activities to be funded under the calls for proposals

According to Article 2 (2) of the LIFE Regulation these projects support the implementation on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities, and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant energy Union legislation or policy, while ensuring involvement of stakeholders and promoting the coordination with, and the mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source.

The strategies and plans targeted by the Strategic Integrated Projects will be the following, under the sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life:
- Circular Economy: National or Regional Circular Economy Action Plans, Strategies, Roadmaps or similar\(^6\), which are officially approved, and which include specific and measurable actions, or targets, with a clear timeline and are in line with or complementing the objectives of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan.


- Air: Air quality plans pursuant to the Air Quality Directive or national air pollution control programmes (NAPCP) pursuant to the National Emission Ceilings Directive.

Section 4.1 of the LIFE MAWP for 2021-2024 provides further information on the type of proposals targeted and on their assessment modalities.

2.3.3. Implementation

The actions will be implemented by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

2.4. ACTION GRANTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.4.1 Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals

National, regional and local authorities and private commercial and non-commercial organisations being registered as legal persons in the Member States of the European Union or in one of the Overseas Countries and Territories linked to them.

Legal persons established outside the Union may participate in these projects according to Article 12 of the LIFE Regulation, under the same conditions foreseen for the participation of third countries not associated to the programme (cf. paragraph 2.1.1).

2.4.2. Description of the activities to be funded under the calls for proposals

According to Article 2 (3) of the LIFE Regulation, Technical Assistance Projects may include the following activities:

- The preparation of Strategic Nature Projects and Strategic Integrated Projects;

- The preparation for accessing other Union financial instruments;

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\(^6\) A Circular Economy Action Plan, Strategy, Road Map or similar is an official document, adopted through the relevant legislative procedure at national or regional level, introducing a vision and propose course of actions / policies to accelerate the transition towards a circular economy at national or regional level, in line with the objectives of the EU Circular Economy Action Plan. The document should have a comprehensive approach, targeting – among other - the life cycle of products and/or materials. To be considered eligible, the plan must have specific and measurable targets, actions or measures – with clear timelines- that enable tracking the IP's contribution to its implementation. Denomination can vary e.g; circular economy strategies, circular economy road maps, circular economy frameworks, etc. The Commission considers such framework strategies as one of the most effective ways to progress circular economy in Member States and strongly encourage Member States to adopt and implement them.
• The facilitation of the upscaling or replication of results from other projects funded by the LIFE Programme, its predecessor programmes or other Union programmes;

• The capacity building of Member States authorities with low effective participation to the LIFE programme with a view to improve the National Contact Points services across the EU and to increase the overall quality of proposals submitted.

Section 4.1 of the LIFE MAWP for 2021-2024 provides further information on the type of proposals targeted and on their assessment modalities.

2.4.3. Implementation

The actions will be implemented by DG Environment and/or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

2.5. ACTION GRANTS FOR THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN TERRITORIES OF EUROPEAN OVERSEAS (BEST)

2.5.1 Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals

National, regional and local authorities and private commercial and non-commercial organisations being registered as legal persons in the Member States of the European Union or in one of the Overseas Countries and Territories linked to them.

Legal persons established outside the Union may participate in these projects according to Article 12 of the LIFE Regulation, under the same conditions foreseen for the participation of third countries not associated to the programme (cf. paragraph 2.1.1).

2.5.2. Description of the activities to be funded under the calls for proposals

In line with point (e) of Article 11 (2) of the LIFE Regulation, these projects will envisage small action grant schemes for Biodiversity in the Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories, building on the work carried out in the frame of the EU’s BEST initiative, including biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable use of ecosystem services.

2.5.3. Implementation

The actions will be implemented by DG Environment and/or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

2.6. ACTION GRANTS FOR PROJECTS SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATION POLICY

2.6.1 Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals

National, regional and local authorities and private commercial and non-commercial organisations being registered as legal persons in the Member States of the European Union or in one of the Overseas Countries and Territories linked to them.

Legal persons established outside the Union may participate in these projects according to Article 12 of the LIFE Regulation, under the same conditions foreseen for the participation of third countries not associated to the programme (cf. paragraph 2.1.1).

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2.6.2. Description of the activities to be funded under the calls for proposals
In line with point (e) of Article 11 (2) of the LIFE Regulation, these projects will include activities needed for achieving the general objectives of the programme, defined on annual basis in collaboration and consultation with the Member States, and in particular, support specific needs regarding the development and implementation of Union environmental policies and related legislation. The activities to be funded will vary in relation to the work necessary to address the specific needs identified by the Commission including the project duration and the indicative budget to be allocated to each project.

Section 4.1 of the LIFE MAWP for 2021-2024 provides further information on the type of proposals targeted and on their assessment modalities.

2.6.3. Implementation
The actions will be implemented by DG Environment and/or the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

2.7. Action Grants for the New European Bauhaus Initiative

2.7.1 Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals
National, regional and local authorities and private commercial and non-commercial organisations being registered as legal persons in the Member States of the European Union or in one of the Overseas Countries and Territories linked to them.

Legal persons established outside the Union may participate in these projects according to Article 12 of the LIFE Regulation, under the same conditions foreseen for the participation of third countries not associated to the programme (cf. paragraph 2.1.1).

2.7.2. Description of the activities to be funded under the calls for proposals
The projects will support the New European Bauhaus initiative to make the Green Deal a cultural, human centred and positive, “tangible” experience.

Specific incubator projects targeting transversal environmental challenges with the involvement of the relevant scientific, governmental, civil and entrepreneurial communities in view to design future ways of living, situated at the crossroads between science, art and culture.

They will integrate the three dimensions of the New European Bauhaus:
- sustainability (including circularity),
- quality of experience (including aesthetics) and
- inclusion (including affordability).

2.7.3. Implementation
The actions will be implemented by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).
2.8. **ACTION GRANTS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITIES OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

2.8.1. **Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals**

Private commercial and non-commercial organisations participating in the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs).

The KICs are long-term pan-European partnerships among leading universities, research labs and companies established in the framework of the work of the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT). 8 KICs were established progressively:

- EIT Climate-KIC innovation for climate action;
- EIT InnoEnergy pioneering change in sustainable energy;
- EIT Digital for a strong digital Europe;
- EIT Manufacturing leading manufacturing innovation is Made by Europe;
- EIT Food addressing sustainable supply chains from resources to consumers;
- EIT RawMaterials developing raw materials into a major strength for Europe;
- EIT Health together for healthy lives in Europe;
- EIT Urban Mobility smart, green and integrated transport.

Circular Economy is one of the horizontal themes for which KICs have developed cross-KIC activities, funded by the EIT and putting together KICs resources for projects, networks and services relevant for the transition to a more circular economy.

2.8.2. **Description of the activities to be funded under the calls for proposals**

The grants will be a contribution to KIC and cross-KIC activities relevant for DG Environment policies, in particular on circular economy, to support the thematic areas identified in the Memorandum of Understanding between the EIT and DG Environment.

The thematic areas currently identified in the draft Memorandum of Understanding include: the EU action plan on circular economy; education, training and skills; sustainable financing; communication and knowledge management.

In the programme, at least 50% of the resources mobilised will be dedicated to facilitate the active participation of start-ups, scale-ups and other SMEs in the transition to a more circular economy; in terms of EU and international supply chains, production processes, products and services, innovation and environmental management, etc.

2.8.3. **Implementation**

The action will be implemented by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

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8 The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is an independent body of the European Union set up in 2008 to deliver innovation across Europe. The EIT brings together leading business, education and research organisations to find solutions to global challenges.

2.9. **FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AND ANNUAL SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS FOR CO-FINANCING THE WORK PROGRAMME OF NON-PROFIT ENTITIES**

2.9.1. **Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals**

Article 11.5 of the LIFE Regulation provides for support for certain operational and administrative costs for non-profit-making entities which are involved in the development, implementation and enforcement of Union legislation and policy and which primarily active in the field of environment or climate action, including energy efficiency.

2.9.2. **Description of the activities to be funded under the calls for proposals**

The objective of this action is to promote better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including non-profit making entities in policy consultation and implementation.

The calls for proposals aim at identifying framework partners to which CINEA may at a later stage, award framework partnership agreements. These shall foresee co-financing of the operating costs of the non-profit making entities related to the eligible activities provided for in the framework partners’ Work Programmes for years 2022 to 2025.

EU requested funds for each non-profit organisation per financial year should not exceed EUR 700 000.

2.9.3. **Implementation**

The actions will be implemented by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

2.10. **GRANTS AWARDED WITHOUT A CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

2.10.1. **Activities of the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law, the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment and the European Forum of Judges for the Environment**

2.10.1.1. **Beneficiaries of the direct award**

Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 2021/783 lists three bodies to which grants may be awarded without a call for proposals: the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL); the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE); and the European Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE).

Each organisation is in a monopoly situation as referred to in Article 195(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, because there is no other potential organisation that could perform the same tasks as each network performs.

Each organisation represents a category of professional along the “the enforcement chain”, which encompasses the work public authorities and institutions do to inspect or otherwise check compliance with environmental laws, identify infringements, prosecute environmental crimes and adjudicate court cases.

IMPEL is the only specialised European body to bring together environmental inspectors and permit-writers; ENPE the only specialised one to bring together environmental prosecutors; and EUFJE the only specialised one to bring together judges dealing with all types of environmental court cases, including criminal law ones.

2.10.1.2. Description of the activities to be funded

As is recognised by their membership of the Environmental Compliance and Governance Forum, cooperation with the three networks is in the interest of the EU as it contributes to better implementation of Union environmental law.

The activities to be funded will vary across the three networks.

All three networks will be assisted in order to help them maintain a secretariat, organise meetings and events specific to each network, participate in cross-network events, and enable a basic level of knowledge- and experience-sharing amongst network members.

Depending on the willingness and capacity of each network, other activities to be funded will be with a view to inter alia:

- Enabling one or more network to contribute to the delivery of the European Green Deal;
- Improving deployment of environmental compliance assurance expertise across the EU;
- Promoting excellence in training for compliance assurance professionals at national and European level;
- Facilitating sharing of good practices and dissemination of information;
- Developing guidance documents and other support tools to assist practitioners in national, regional and local administrations;
- Carrying out dedicated support activities for national administrations, which request support;
- Building up the capacity and use of geospatial intelligence for compliance assurance and promote good practice projects (e.g. using Copernicus data).

Depending on the operational needs and the absorption capacity of each organisation, the implementation of the action can lead to the conclusion of:

- Framework Partnership Agreements;
- Operating grants;
- Action grants.

2.10.1.3. Implementation

The actions will be implemented by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

3. Prizes

The global budgetary envelope for the period 2021-2024 reserved for contests under this work programme is EUR 4 000 000.
3.1. European Green Capital Award

3.1.1. Type of participants targeted by the contests

The contest is open to all city administrations from EU Member States, EU candidate countries as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland in conformity with Article 6 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/783. All cities from these countries, which have more than 100 000 inhabitants, can apply for the award. Past winners may not apply again after they have been awarded the European Green Capital or European Green Leaf title.

3.1.2. Description

It is important to recognise cities that are making efforts to improve their urban environment and move towards healthier and sustainable living. Progress is its own reward, but the satisfaction involved in winning a prestigious European title spurs cities to invest in further efforts and boosts awareness within the city as well as in other cities. Therefore, the Commission recognises cities demonstrating outstanding environmental performance each year, by awarding the title of European Green Capital. Assessment is based on a set of indicator areas which cover most of the areas that determine the success or otherwise of an urban environment.

The objectives of the award are to:

- Reward cities that have a consistent record of achieving high environmental standards;
- Encourage cities to commit to on-going and ambitious goals for further environmental improvement and sustainable development;
- Provide a role model to inspire other cities and promote best practice and experiences in all other European cities.

3.1.3. Implementation

The actions will be implemented by DG Environment.

3.2. European Green Leaf Award

3.2.1. Type of participants targeted by the contests

The contest is open to all city administrations from EU Member States, EU candidate countries as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland in conformity with Article 6 of the Regulation (EU) No 2021/783. All cities from these countries that have between 20 000 and 100 000 inhabitants can apply. Past winners may not apply again after they have been awarded the European Green Capital or European Green Leaf title.

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10 In this context, a “city” is understood to be an urban area, including metropolitan areas (excluding agglomerations), with an administrative unit governed by a city council or another form of democratically elected body.

11 In this context, a “city” is defined as an urban area and an administrative unit governed by a city council or another form of democratically elected body.
In any given year, cities can apply for either the European Green Capital Award or European Green Leaf Award, but not both at the same time. Past winners may not apply again after they have been awarded the European Green Capital or European Green Leaf title.

3.2.2. Description
Following the establishment of the European Green Capital (EGC) Award (cf. section 3.1), the European Commission launched a similar competition for smaller cities – 'European Green Leaf' (EGL). Evaluation of the EGL applicants is based on six topic areas: climate change and energy performance, mobility, biodiversity and land use, quality of air and the acoustic environment, waste and circular economy, water management.

The objectives of the award are:

• To recognise cities that demonstrate a good environmental record and commitment to generating green growth;
• To encourage cities to actively develop citizens’ environmental awareness and involvement;
• To identify cities able to act as a ‘green ambassador’ and to encourage other cities to progress towards a better sustainability outcomes.

3.2.3. Implementation
The actions will be implemented by DG Environment.

4. Procurement
The global budgetary envelope reserved for the period 2021-2024 for procurement contracts is EUR 260 107 190.

4.1. General description of the contracts envisaged
Service contracts or specific contracts under any relevant framework contract in force in the European Commission to support:

• External communication, e.g. media-relations, publications, information materials, translations, stakeholder events, workshops, conferences and support to participatory schemes/activities. This will include a contribution to the corporate communication, which would cover the corporate communication of the Union's political priorities.

• Design, development and implementation of the environmental policies and legislation and other policies and legislation having an impact on environment, e.g. scientific, legal and technical support, stakeholders consultation/involvement, missions, inspections, audits, evaluations, impact assessments, IT, including specific expertise to support the promotion and the structuring of green investments.

• Study contracts to support the design, development, implementation and enforcement of environmental policies and legislation and other policies and legislation having an impact on environment.

Administrative agreements will be concluded with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) for scientific and technical support.

12 C(2020)9390: Corporate communication action in 2021-2023 under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 - 'Communicating a Union that strives for more'
In addition, framework contracts for administrative, technical, scientific and legal assistance to the Commission are foreseen in the following domains:

a) Implementation, evaluation and development of waste policy;
b) Implementation, evaluation and development of the air quality and emissions policies;
c) Implementation, evaluation and development of the chemicals policy.
d) Implementation, evaluation and development of the water and marine policies.
e) Implementation, evaluation and development of biodiversity policies and legislation, including nature-based solutions and ecosystem approach.
f) Implementation of the legislative instruments on environmental governance.
g) Implementation of the Regulation (EU) No 1257/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on ship recycling.\(^\text{13}\)
h) Cooperation with national judges in the field of environmental law. The objective is to assist the Commission in carrying out actions in order to improve and consolidate knowledge of EU environmental law among judges and prosecutors, notably through the development and organisation of trainings.
i) Conformity checking and technical assessments of Member States’ compliance with the EU environmental legislation. The sectors covered may include air, chemicals, nature, waste, water and other environmental areas.
j) Supporting activities in the area of resource efficiency, circular economy and green growth, including promotion of stakeholder engagement, exchange of information and best practices.
k) Economic analysis of environmental policies and analytical support in the context of Better Regulation.

4.2 Implementation

These actions will be implemented by DG Environment, or delegated according to the internal rules to DGT, DG COMM, DG SCIC, OP, DG DIGIT, DG SANTE, DG NEAR, DG TAXUD, DG DEFIS, DG AGRI, PMO, JRC and ESTAT, according to their area of competence.

The actions related to the implementation and support of the grants financed under the LIFE programme could, if relevant, be implemented by CINEA (monitoring and communication on LIFE projects, management of an expert roaster for promoting and supporting green investments).

5. Actions implemented in indirect management

The global budgetary envelope reserved for the period 2021-2024 for actions in indirect management is EUR 11 000 000.

5.1 InvestEU Advisory Hub – deploying technical assistance on natural capital and circular economy

5.1.1 Description

Despite strong support for (environmentally and socially) sustainable finance and investments aimed at reducing such risks (a key feature of green investments), the distance between stated

objectives and the reality on the ground remains large. To deliver on the twin, green and digital transitions, there is the need to work upstream and ensure that the necessary tools and expertise are in place for the preparation of innovative and sustainable projects on the ground.

The advisory hub will aim at making available state of the art proactive technical assistance as an essential enabling action supporting the greening of the economy and of the expected investments.

The green advisory targets these investments that are necessary to fully implement EU environmental and climate policy and legislation and tackle broader environmental challenges relating to protecting and restoring our natural capital underpinning the economy and its circularity as set out in the European Green Deal.

The Advisory Hub will provide a dedicated technical assistance to support the definition of innovative and sustainable investments under the Sustainable Infrastructure Window of InvestEU.

5.1.2 Implementing entity
The European Investment Bank.

5.2. Pan-European Action Plan for Sturgeons

5.2.1 Description
The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) is a binding international legal instrument in the field of nature conservation. It covers most of the natural heritage of the European continent and of some African countries. The Contracting Parties comprise fifty countries and the European Union. The Standing Committee is the governing body of the Bern Convention and the Secretariat supplies administrative and other services to the Standing Committee. The Pan-European Sturgeon Action Plan was adopted by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention in 2018 and aims at the conservation of all sturgeon species at the pan-European level.

The action concerns the establishment of a coordination structure that would support the Secretariat of the Bern Convention in the implementation of the Action Plan. Progress reports towards the objectives of the Action Plan will analyse implementation challenges, including knowledge gaps, and recommend ways of addressing them, with particular focus on cooperation across river or sea basins. Tasks will also include the drafting of best-practice guidelines, capacity-building activities, ensuring synergies with relevant transnational cooperation frameworks, such as the EU macro-regional strategies, and a communication campaign at the European level.

5.2.2 Implementing entity
Secretariat of the Bern Convention (Council of Europe).

5.3. International information exchange on the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT) to control industrial emissions – Phase III

5.3.1 Description
For large industrial sectors, particularly energy-intensive ones, many new investments now take place outside of the EU. Industrial pollution control in Europe therefore has an increasingly global dimension. For the past 6 years, the OECD has run, with support from the Commission, the two first phases of an international project to exchange good practice on BAT (best available technique) permitting for industrial production activities.
This action aims to promote international exchanges on the use of Best Available Techniques (BAT) to regulate the environmental performance of large industrial plants. It provides a stage for sharing and spreading EU’s policies at an international level and thereby contributing to levelling the international playing field. The action will contribute to the European Green Deal’s objectives on zero pollution, carbon neutrality and circular economy. More specifically the action will look to a) explore how a BAT-based approach can make a bigger contribution to circular economy, industrial symbiosis and de-carbonisation, b) facilitate exchange of experience and information in establishing BAT or similar concepts for selected industrial sectors, including on specific prevention and control techniques, c) undertake sectoral comparisons of standards in different countries, and d) identify ways to better define environmental standards in the light of the dynamics of scientific and technical innovation.

5.3.2 Implementing entity

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).