The LIFE Programme
Funding for food waste reduction and prevention initiatives

Angelo Salsi
Head of Unit, LIFE & CIP eco-innovation
European Commission/Executive Agency for SMEs - EASME

10th Meeting of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste
18 March 2021
LIFE programme – core of the European Green Deal

• Proposals for revisions of relevant legislative measures to deliver on the increased climate ambition: e.g. Emissions Trading System Directive; Effort Sharing Regulation; Land use, land use change and forestry Regulation; Energy Efficiency Directive; Renewable Energy Directive; CO2 emissions performance standards for cars and vans, Fluorinated greenhouse gas Regulation ...

• New Farm to Fork Strategy sets the framework for a more sustainable and climate-friendly food systems in the EU

• New Circular Economy Action Plan - one of the main blocks of the European Green Deal and crucial link with the new LIFE regulation

• Strategy for green financing and a Sustainable Europe Investment Plan

• New EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
Advantages of LIFE funding

- **Great flexibility** embedded in the LIFE programme:
  - No minimum/maximum specifications for project **budgets**
  - No minimum/maximum specifications for project **partners** and/or MS involved
- LIFE puts great emphasis on **environmental benefits/impact**, **sustainability** and **replicability/transferability** in the evaluation of the proposals
- **Standard Action Projects** (former Traditional projects) and **Technical assistance** projects are co-financed up to 60% (exception: projects in nature and biodiversity sub-programme can receive up to 75% in specific cases)
- **Strategic Integrated Projects** are co-funded with up to 60%
The variety of LIFE beneficiaries

- SMEs
- Local/region al/national authorities
- International/ large/mixed/ public enterprises
- Inter- governmental bodies
- NGOs
- Park reserve authorities
- Professional organization
- Research institutions/U niversities
- Development agencies
- Training centres
LIFE Programme 2021-2027

LIFE remains the only EU programme exclusively dedicated to the environment, nature conservation and climate action

Total indicative budget 2021 -2027
~ € 5.43 billion
- Sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity (€ 2 billion)
- Sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life (€ 1.35 billion)
- Sub-programme Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (€ 0.95 billion)
- Sub-programme Clean Energy Transition (€ 1 billion)

Changes
- Expanded use of strategic integrated projects
- Extend eligibility to OCTs
- Centralised financial instruments
- Greater flexibility to target key emerging issues
LIFE funding for food waste reduction and prevention initiatives

- What has been invested in food sector projects?

**LIFE 2014-2020**

- **LIFE programme** has contributed *nearly € 90 million* to over 50 projects in the food waste reduction and prevention sector.

- **Overall investment** of food waste reduction and prevention projects: over *€ 160 million*.
Integrated Projects examples – CIRCWASTE - LIFE IP on waste: towards circular economy in Finland

**Finnish Environment Institute SYKE**– research institution
+ 17 partners (research institutes and universities, municipalities and regions, companies and public enterprises)

- **LIFE15 IPE/FI/000004**
- **2016 – 2023**
- **€ 18.79 million** (Total Budget) **€ 11.11 million** (EU contribution)
- The aim of the project is to implement the National Waste Plan of Finland (NWP) which promotes efficient use of material flows, waste prevention and new waste and resource management concepts

**Food Waste related actions:**
- Finding solutions to redistribute surplus food
- Testing decomposition and manufacturing of new products from byflows originating from the food industry
- ‘Love Every Crumb’ campaign to reduce food waste - Circwaste project supports the visibility of the campaign and participates in the production of materials
- Examples of results: Reduced food waste in participating canteens by 10-20% by 2019 and in buffet serving by 30% (by increasing food donations in the participating canteens), reduced edible food waste in the studied case-products by 10-20% by 2019
Integrated Projects examples - LIFE-IP CEI-Greece - Circular Economy Implementation in Greece

**Ministry of Environment and Energy** – national authority
+ **19 Partners** (research institutes and universities, municipalities and regions, companies and public enterprises)

- **LIFE18 IPE/GR/000013**
- **2019 – 2027**
- **€ 15.93 million** (Total Budget) **€ 9.56 million** (EU contribution)
- The aim of the project is to **reduce the amount of municipal waste sent to landfills** and to **promote waste prevention and re-use**, based on circular economy principles

**Food Waste related actions:**
- Commission the **first baseline study for food waste generation** in specific sectors (post-harvest losses, food processing industry, wholesale and retailers, households, and hospitality/catering sector)
- Create a **Platform for Food Waste Prevention**, linking at least 1 000 donors with 500 charities, to redistribute at least t40 of surplus food per year
- Create a **Food Waste Prevention Forum** to be adopted by different sectors and stakeholders involved in the food waste generation chain
Traditional Projects examples - LIFE BIOCOPACPlus - Bio-based coating from tomato processing by-products for food packaging

- **Experimental Station for the Food Preserved Industry** (CB, research institution)
- **Azienda Agricola Chiesa Virginio** - bio-refinery / SME
- **Salchi MetalCoat** – a metal packaging company
- **CFT Food Technology S.p.A.** – a global supplier of processing and packaging equipment

- **LIFE13 ENV/IT/000590**
- 2014 – 2017
- **€ 2.06 million** (Total Budget) **€ 1.02 million** (EU contribution)
- Technology for the production of a bio-lacquer obtained from tomato by-products and to be used as coating for food contact applications in metal cans

- **Start-up launched** for project’s solution commercialization (TomaPaint)
- **Financing secured** – Climate-KIC (H2020), Seals of Excellence – SME Instrument
- **Pilot plant in operation** since 2016, **industrial plant in construction**
Traditional Projects examples - LIFE CITRUSPACK – Revalorization strategies within the circular economy for the use of citrus waste in green packaging and cosmetics

- FUNDACIN AITIIP - technological centre, research institution
- EROSKI S. COOP - supermarket chain
- Organic Waste Systems nv – waste management
- PLASTIPOLIS – plastics competitiveness cluster
- Slovenian Tool and Die Development Centre – research centre
- AMC INNOVA JUICE AND DRINKS S.L – computer software company

- LIFE16 ENV/ES/000171
- 2017 – 2020
- € 1.71 million (Total budget) € 1.02 million (EU contribution)
- Supporting implementation of circular economy by enabling treated wastes from the citrus industry to be used in packaging and cosmetic products

- A competitive market solution for bio-based and biodegradable plastics
- High TRL, commercial competitiveness, replicability and transferability
- Indirectly contributing to the Commission’s target of banning recyclable material in landfills by 2025
Traditional Projects examples – Governance & Information
- TRiFOCAL London - TRansforming City FOod hAbits for LIFE

Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) - NGO-Foundation
London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) – a partnership of the Mayor of London and the London boroughs to improve waste and resource management

• LIFE15 GIE/UK/000867
• 2016 – 2020
• € 3.20 million (Total budget) € 1.92 million (EU contribution)
• Holistic awareness raising & communications campaign to encourage behavior change & sustainable food systems in cities, prevent avoidable food waste, promote healthy and sustainable eating, and encourage the recycling of unavoidable food waste

- Example of Governance & Information implemented project
- Working with multiple stakeholders: citizens, schools, businesses and communities
- Project’s transferability and replicability – already 11 replication cities successfully signed up (e.g. Dublin, Brussels, Vienna, Barcelona,..)
Traditional Projects examples - FLAW4LIFE - Spreading ugly Fruit Against food Waste

Fruta Feia CRL - non-profit consumer cooperative, SME
CML (Câmara Municipal de Lisboa) – city council
IST (Instituto Superior Técnico) – research centre

- LIFE14 ENV/PT/000817
- 2015 – 2018
- €0.57 million (Total budget) €0.32 million (EU contribution)
- Project aimed to change food consumption habits and create an alternative market for ‘ugly’ (or less than perfect-looking) fruit and vegetables by changing consumer behavior and involving local farmers

- Winner of 2 LIFE Awards 2020 (Award for Best Project in the Environment category and the Citizen's Prize)
- Fruta Feia saves 5.6 tons/week of food waste at its five delivery points
- Project exceeded expectations: Fruta Feia increased the number of delivery points to 11 and the amount of food waste saved to 12 tons/week
Traditional Projects examples - Governance & Information - LIFE-Food.Waste.StandUp - Awareness-raising campaign for food waste prevention and surplus food management among agro-food SMEs, retailers & consumers

Federalimentare Servizi Srl – professional organisation
FD (Federdistribuzione) – trade association
FBAO(Fondazione Banco Alimentare Onlus) – think tank
UNC(Unione Nazionale Consumatori) – consumer association

- **LIFE15 GIE/IT/000887**
- 2016 – 2019
- **€ 1.57 million** (Total budget) **€ 0.94 million** (EU contribution)
- Main objective of the project was to raise awareness of surplus food management and food waste prevention among three key actors of the food supply chain: agri-food companies, food retailers and consumers

- A 70% increase in the number of events to raise awareness on food waste prevention held by food enterprises; 38% increase in the amount of food waste recovered from retailers; 25% increase in food waste recovered from agri-food companies; 9% increase in the number of new food donors among agri-food companies; 27% increase in the number of new food donors among retailers
- A 121% increase in the amount of recovered food waste by food donors overall (from 40 767t in 2016 to 90 411t in 2018)
LIFE programme – next milestones

End of spring 2021

• LIFE Regulation 2021-2027
• Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 2021-2024

Early summer 2021

• LIFE Call for Proposals 2021

LIFE National Contact Persons: Information on eligibility and support in proposal preparation
Food sector Publication as a result of the cooperation between LIFE and SMEunited

• The aim of cooperation is to support SMEs in sustainable transition and the publication aims to share with SMEs a pool of hands-on tips to facilitate their first steps in the food sector towards becoming greener.

• The publication will be presented at the Webinar on ‘How to finance the greening of your food chain’ on 24 March 2021 – registrations are open now:


• More details to follow in the next presentation by Mr Guido Lena, Director for Sustainable Development of SME United
Thank you and stay safe