



**KEY EU FUNDING  
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

# **The LIFE Programme**

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# LIFE 2014-2020 – Objectives

- contributing towards a **resource-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy**; protecting and improving the **environment**; maintaining and improving **biodiversity**, ecosystems and, in particular, the **Natura 2000 network**
- improving the development, implementation and enforcement of **Union environmental and climate policy and legislation**
- **integrating and mainstreaming** of environmental and climate objectives into other Union policies
- improving environmental and climate **governance**
- Implementing the **7th Environment Action Programme**

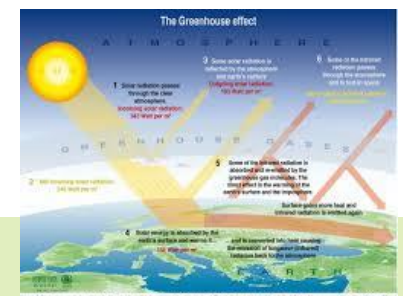
# LIFE 2014-2020 – Priority Areas

## → Environment sub-programme

- Environment & Resource Efficiency (ENV)
- Nature & Biodiversity (NAT, BIO)
- Environmental Governance & Information (GIE)

## → Climate Action sub-programme

- Climate Change Mitigation (CMM)
- Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)
- Climate Change Governance & Information (GIC)





# LIFE - General features

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- **Applicants : SME, NGO, public administrations** active in the field of environment and climate protection
- Emphasis on **replicability/transferability, long-term sustainability, and an EU added value** of the project results
- **Not focussed on research** (↔ H2020)
- **No large infrastructure; not focussed on rural or regional development** (↔ agricultural, structural funds)
- **Support and monitoring:** From Contracting Authority (EASME or Commission) and external monitoring team



# LIFE 2015 - Budget

- ↓ Total budget of **€ 404.6 million**
- ↓ For **projects** (action grants and financial instruments)
  - €324.6 million** (81% of total)
- Sub-programme for **environment €245.4 million** for projects
  - **Nature & Biodiversity** including **related governance and information € 132.8 million** (55% of sub-programme ENV minus financial instruments)
- ↓ Sub-programme for **climate action €79.2 million** for projects
- ↓ **Operating grants** to environmental and climate **NGOs €9 million**





# LIFE Traditional Projects

## For whom?

- Private companies, NGOs, public administrations active in the field of environment and climate protection

## For what?

- Pursuit of **general and specific objectives of the priority areas** under each of the sub-programmes.
- Sub-programme for Environment: additional focus on **thematic priorities** (Annex III of the LIFE Regulation) and on **project topics** (LIFE multiannual work-programme for 2014-2017)

## Average size?

- 1 to 5 beneficiaries; EU contribution: €500,000 to €1.5 million

**Co-funding rate? 60%; NAT: for priority habitats/species: 75%**





# LIFE Traditional Projects

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- Focus: To **bridge the gap** between research and development results and widespread implementation, and to promote innovative solutions
- Eligible, high quality projects are considered **top priority** if a **project topic** is fully applicable and the project is **demonstrative EU wide**
- **Project should not focus on:** research and technological development activities, studies not specifically addressing the objective aimed at by the proposal and development of industrial capacity



# Environment priority areas (1)

## ➤ **Environment and resource *efficiency* (ENV):**

- **Pilot and demonstration** projects
- *Thematic priorities for*
  - **Water**, including the **marine environment**
  - **Waste**
  - **Resource Efficiency**, including **soil and forests**, and **green and circular economy**
  - **Environment and Health**, including **chemicals and noise**
  - **Air quality and emissions**, including **urban environment**

Specific topics described in MAWP





# Environment priority areas (2)

## ➤ ***Nature and Biodiversity (NAT)\*:***

- **Pilot, demonstration, best practice**
- **NATURE projects:** Contribute to the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives (Council Directives 79/409 EEC and 92/43/EEC) – inside Natura 2000 network or contributing to its integrity
- **BIODIVERSITY projects:** Contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 - must address wild fauna/flora
- Must contain **Concrete Conservation Actions** (at least 25% of the LIFE project's budget)



## Environment priority areas (3)

### ➤ ***Environmental Policy and governance (GIE):***

- information and awareness raising projects and projects facilitating knowledge sharing;
- Support for cooperation networks and best practices for the application of environmental regulations and enforcement
- Promotion of a better governance

=> for LIFE GIE around **40 project topics** (cf MAWP) **in the areas of** water, waste, Resource Efficiency including soil and forests, and green and circular economy, Air quality and emissions, including urban environment, Environment and Health including Chemicals and Noise, Nature and Biodiversity, Governance and enforcement, Enforcement, inspections and surveillance, Sharing of best practice, Promoting non-judicial conflict resolution



# Climate priority areas (1)

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- CCA en CCM: Pilot, demonstration, best practice projects
- GIC: Governance & Information projects



# Climate priority areas (2)



MAWP :

- Support for implementation of adaptation strategies.
- Support for pioneering a post carbon society.
- Demonstration at regional or sub-regional level of low carbon strategies or land use management plans.

*=> Specific priority topics published in each year project call*

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# LIFE – "pilot"

Innovative projects applying techniques/methods that

- Have not been applied or tested before, or elsewhere,
- Offer potential environmental or climate advantages compared to current best practice,
- Can subsequently be applied on a larger scale to similar situations, and
- Have already been researched

*Monitoring, evaluating and dissemination are integral parts of the pilot approach.*





# LIFE – "demonstration"

Projects putting into practice actions/methodologies/approaches that

- Are new or unknown in the specific (e.g. geographical, ecological, socio-economic) context of the project,
- Could be applied elsewhere in similar circumstances, and
- Are tested, evaluated and disseminated during the project.

*Monitoring, evaluating and dissemination are integral parts of the demonstration approach.*





# LIFE – "best practice"

Projects that apply techniques/methods/approaches that

- Are State-of-the-art,
- Appropriate,
- Cost-effective, and
- Take into account the specific context of the project

*Testing and evaluating of best practice techniques should NOT be part of the project as they are already state of the art. Monitoring, however, is obligatory.*





## LIFE – "information, awareness and dissemination projects"

Projects aimed at

- supporting communication, dissemination of information and awareness raising
- **BE AWARE:** not mere information campaigns but
  - 1 Identify **the problem** the proposal aims to address/ describe the current situation (environmental aspects and awareness/cooperation level)
  2. Define **what is to be achieved** as a result of the project in terms of progress towards tackling the problem targeted.
  3. Define **who will be targeted** by the project.
  4. Define the **actions** that will enable the objectives to be achieved
  5. Define **indicators** for **monitoring the impact** of the project.





# LIFE

- **Funding rate:** in general **60% of eligible cost** (2014-2017), NAT: for priority habitats/species: **75%**
- **Actors: EASME** for **grants**
- **National Allocations:** Only for environment sub-programme, only 2014- 2017
- Submitting via **e-tool**





# Award criteria (2014-2017)

	Minimum Pass Score	Total Possible
Technical coherence and quality	10	20
Financial coherence and quality	10	20
Extent and quality of the contribution to the objectives	10	20
Contribution to the project topics		10
Quality of multipurpose, synergies and integration	7	15
Replicability and transferability	5	10
Transnational, green procurement, uptake		5

**Overall pass score: 55 of 100 possible points**





## **BE AWARE**

- ***Be clear and precise – applications are evaluated on what is submitted (not on the potential of the idea)***
- ***Ensure financial coherence; Watch COST EFFECTIVENESS***
- ***FOCUS - Do NOT include actions not related to the objective of your proposal***
- ***Remember: If your project doesn't fit a priority project topic, you will receive fewer points!***
- ***READ the application & evaluation guidelines***
- ***Read about and talk to ongoing projects***
- ***Start early***
- ***SELECTION is tough and detailed...***



# LIFE Call 2016 Indicative planning

- **Provisional date for publication call 2016:** second half of May.
- **Deadline Climate (all objectives: CCA, CCM and GIC):** 7 September
- **Deadline Environment (ENV - Environment and Resource Efficiency):** 12 September
- **Deadline Environment (NAT - Nature and Biodiversity and GIE - Environmental Governance and Information):** 15 september

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





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- information on the Life program
- specific information on calls (mail, telephone, consult) and questions on concrete proposals

LIFE info session: 17 June - Brussels

Thank you for your attention!